DH
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The Power of Good

# Vijay's swearing-in on hold, Guv seeks numbers

## Water for the winged and the wild

Spectrum
Page 9

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LAUNCHING

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*T&C APPLY

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| 4 BHK | 2742 SFT. | ₹2.46CR* | ₹2.37CR* |
| 5 BHK FLOOR VILLA | 3939 SFT. | ₹3.51CR* | ₹3.37CR* |

PHASE 2 UNITS - 674 | UNITS SOLD - 183 | AVAILABLE UNITS - 491

HANDOVER IN 36 MONTHS

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|---|---|---|---|---|
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LAUNCHING
# CASAGRAND CASABLANCA
PHASE 2

LUXURIOUS 2, 3 & 4 BHK APTS. &
5 BHK FLOOR VILLAS
OFF KANAKAPURA ROAD | 5 MINS FROM FORUM MALL

₹1.2CR* ONWARDS
*T&C APPLY

## 130+ ACTION-PACKED AMENITIES

### INDOOR CLUB AMENITIES

**Entertainment**
Multipurpose Hall
AV Room
Cricket Simulator
Video Games Room
Nook Seating
Coffee Shop
Entertainment Lounge
Guest Lounge
Terrace Sky Cinema
Terrace Hangout Plaza
Terrace Stepped Seating
Terrace Star Gazing
Rooftop Café

**Kids Play Area**
Ball pool
Informal Seating
Kids Gym
Adventurous Play Area
Rock Climbing
Lego Wall

**Learning**
Library
Arts & Crafts Room
Crèche
Business Centre
Co-Working Space
Learning Centre

**Gym**
Digital Interactive Gym
TRX Training
Boxing Corner
Weight Lifting
Functional Training

**Health & Fitness**
Yoga/Meditation Zone
Steam Room
Indoor Jacuzzi
Salon
Spa

**Indoor Sports**
Squash Courts
Badminton Courts
Table Tennis
Foosball
Billiards
Pool Table
Soccer Pool
Board Games Corner
Indoor Golf Area
Terrace Multipurpose Court
Arcade Games
Air Hockey

### OUTDOOR AMENITIES

**Kids**
Rock Climbing Wall
Sand Pit
Kids Jungle Gym
Children's Play Area
Trampoline
Tot Lot
Skating Rink
Interactive Floor Games

**Sports, Fitness & Wellbeing**
Yoga Deck
Meditation Pavilion
Outdoor Gym
Multipurpose Sports Court
Cricket Practice Net
Mini Maidan
Beach Volley Ball Court
Lawn Volley Ball Court
Tennis Court
Basket Ball Court
Pickle Ball Court
Kabaddi Court

**Swimming Pool Amenities**
Adults Pool
Kids Pool
Kids Splash Pad
Pool Side Party Lawn
Pool Volley Ball Net
Water Slide
Pool Side Lounges
Refreshment Counter
Pool Side Theatre
Sunken Seating
Basketball Pole
Pool Side Seating
Jacuzzi

**Features & Entertainment**
Bus Shelter
Terrain Seating
Pavilion
Amphitheatre
Reflexology Pathway
Palm Tree Plaza
Stepped Floral Garden
Party Lawn
Golf Putting
Pets Park
Pet Washing Station
Jogging And Walking Track
Cycling Track
Viewing Deck
Floral Garden
Sculpture Court
Seating Gallery
Camp Fire Zone
Forest Walkway
Hammocks Garden
Barbeque Zone
Elevated Walkway
Koi Pond
Lily Pond
Forest Adventurous Zone
Tree House
Fruit Orchard
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Elder's Chitchat Zone
Aroma Garden
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Zen Garden
Camping Tents
Maze Garden
Mini Miyawaki Forest
Outdoor Musical Garden
DIY Garden
Interactive Fountain
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25 MINS
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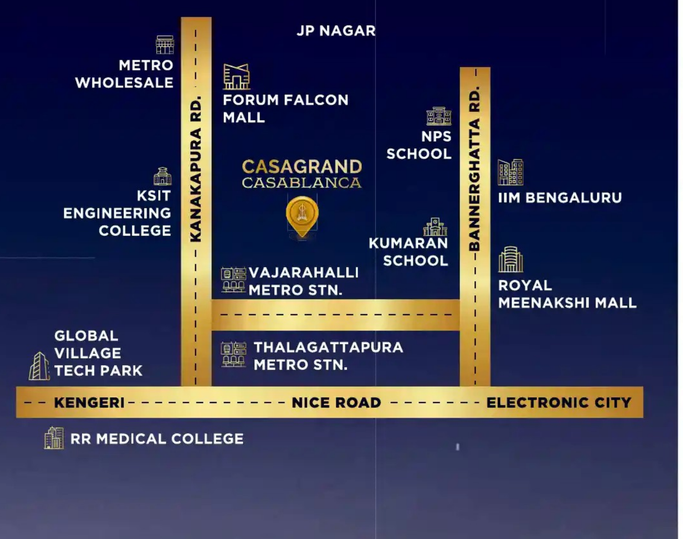
28 MINS
BTM LAYOUT
30 MINS



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*Based on CBRE report 2024

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Bengaluru Thursday, May 7, 2026 Pages 22 Vol 79 No 126 ₹7

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The Power of Good

# Arsenal scratch 20-year itch

Saka shines as Gunners storm into Champions League final

*Page 10*

**State**

**Suspended IPS officer Ramachandra Rao reinstated**

P.3

**State**

**Speaker administers oath to BJP MLA D N Jeevaraj**

P.4

**Nation**

SC asks if Dawoodi Bohra PIL maintainable P.5

**Sports**

Ban on bilateral sports with Pak stays P.10

# Vijay's swearing-in on hold, Guv seeks numbers

## TN LIMBO: Actor-politician shy of 4 seats to form govt

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam President C Joseph Vijay's path towards the chair of Tamil Nadu chief minister hit a major roadblock on Wednesday, with Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar insisting that the actor-politician first produce the proof that he has the support of enough legislators before being invited to form the government.

Arlekar conveyed his position to Vijay when the latter met him at the Lok Bhavan on Wednesday evening to stake claim for forming the new government.

The TVK, which won 108 seats, now has the support of 113 MLAs after the Congress that won five seats extended its support, but the Governor is insisting that Vijay show he has the support of 117 MLAs, the magic number.

Sources told *DH* that the Governor told Vijay and his team that he had already conveyed during an earlier phone conversation that documentary proof of majority support would be essential to invite him to form the government.

This has made it difficult for Vijay to take oath as the CM as per original plans of the TVK.

A top source said the Congress extending support to the TVK and joining the new dispensation is likely the reason for the deadlock.

In the morning, AIADMK leaders said that their party was willing to support the TVK unconditionally, but the situation changed once the Congress came into the picture.

Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar with TVK chief Vijay at Lok Bhavan, in Chennai, on Wednesday. PTI

By evening, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami convened a meeting of party MLAs and deputed his confidante K P Munusamy to announce that the party would never support the TVK.

"The AIADMK will not support any government that includes the Congress and that is the position of the BJP as well. Vijay could have easily passed the floor test with 108 MLAs as the AIADMK was ready to abstain from the House. The BJP doesn't want the Congress to gain power in TN," another source added.

The Governor's insistence on the proof of numbers has put Vijay in a spot. While the TVK now has the support of 113 MLAs, it needs another four legislators to form the government.

▸ Vijay, Page 5

## Himanta to take oath after May 11

**Himanta Biswa Sarma will take oath as the Assam CM — for his second straight term — after May 11, Assam BJP president Dilip Saikia announced on Wednesday during a meeting with leaders of its regional ally, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP). Saikia's announcement came after Sarma met the Governor at Lok Bhavan and tendered his Council of Ministers' resignation.**

Details on Page 8

## New Bengal CM to take oath on May 9

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The new chief minister of West Bengal will take the oath at a public rally in Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, as well as many of the chief ministers of states ruled by the BJP, will attend the ceremony, which will take place in the vicinity of the statue of Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mukherjee and will mark the saffron party's capture of political power in West Bengal for the first time.

The venue and the date that the BJP chose to mark the change of regime in Bengal are significant. The Brigade Parade Ground has been a witness to several political rallies, including the one Mamata Banerjee had held as a Youth Congress leader on November 25, 1992, when she had symbolically rung the death-knell of the then Left Front government – six years before quitting the grand old party and launching her own Trinamool Congress.

The chief minister of the new BJP government of West Bengal will take the oath on a day the state celebrates the 165th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

▸ Bengal, Page 5

The mangled remains of a scooter after an explosion in Jalandhar. PTI

## Punjab on high alert after twin blasts

**CHANDIGARH, PTI:** Two back-to-back explosions near security establishments shook Punjab on Tuesday night, triggering panic and drawing condemnation from opposition parties, which called them efforts to "destabilise" the state.

The first explosion happened around 8 pm in Jalandhar outside the headquarters of the Border Security Force's Punjab Frontier, while the second blast occurred at around 11 pm near the army cantonment in Amritsar's Khasa, police said.

An investigation into both incidents is underway.

Amritsar (Rural) Senior SP Suhail Mir Qasim stated that police received reports of a loud sound at around 11 pm on a road in Khasa. "Our teams arrived on the scene immediately," he said.

Opposition parties have condemned the AAP government over the blasts.

# SEC likely to finalise date of GBA corp polls today

**Panel may review readiness to hold elections in June-end**

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a significant move, the State Election Commission (SEC) has scheduled a high-level meeting on Thursday where the date of elections to the five newly-carved corporations of Bengaluru is likely to be finalised. The development comes even as the Karnataka government, in writing, has requested the commission to extend the date of civic body polls until September-end.

In its letter dated May 5, the SEC secretary has informed the District Electoral Officer, who is also the chief commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), and deputy commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district to be present at the meeting to be held in the conference hall of Vidhana Soudha. An invitation has also been extended to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy D K Shivakumar and all members of the GBA.

The letter specifically mentions that the meeting has been called to fix the date for the elections to the five city corporations of the GBA. "According to the GBA Act, the state election commission is required to fix the date of elections after consulting the GBA. Hence, all members of the GBA are invited for the meeting," the letter states.

Last month, SEC commissioner G S Sangreshi had filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court stating that the commission is ready to hold the civic body polls by June-end as directed by the apex court but went on to add that the state government has requested an additional three months' time citing shortage of manpower owing to the Census work.

During Thursday's meeting, the commission may review the preparedness of holding the elections by June-end which includes deployment of required manpower, release of funds by the government as well as logistical arrangements. The SEC may either announce the date of election soon after the meeting or take time until May 15 as it needs 45 days to complete the formalities needed to hold the elections.

Notably, the upcoming civic body elections will be held using ballot paper as the state election commission had earlier announced that it will not be using electronic voting machines (EVMs) as it did in the past elections.

**Poll process**

- GBA chief commissioner, B'luru Urban DC called for meeting
- CM Siddaramaiah, Dy CM, all GBA members also invited
- SEC's letter specifically mentions that meeting has been called to fix the date for elections to GBA corporations
- The SEC may either announce poll date after the meeting or take time until May 15 as it needs 45 days to complete formalities

> According to the GBA Act, the state election commission is required to fix the date of elections after consulting the Greater Bengaluru Authority.
>
> **SEC's letter**

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## Quickly

### Suvendu's assistant shot dead

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant was shot dead by unidentified assailants in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Wednesday night. The incident took place near Doharia on Jessore Road in Madhyamgram area, when Chandranath Rath was returning to his flat from Kolkata in a car, they said.

Details on Page 8

### Protect Devaraja market: SC

The Supreme Court has said that the over a century-old Devaraja Market and the Lansdowne Building in Mysuru should be protected, with necessary renovation and restoration work carried out. A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi passed the order after examining a report of the IIT-Roorkee, on the condition of the two structures.

Details on Page 4

### Cybercrimes: B'luru tops metro cities

Karnataka continued to report the most cybercrimes across India, with Bengaluru alone accounting for over half of the digital offences in metropolitan cities, according to the NCRB report for 2024 released on Wednesday.

Details on Page 3

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## ◆ IN THE CITY ◆

**GENERAL**

**Chemothsava:** Festival to celebrate chemistry talent; Organised by Dr Manmohan Singh Bangalore City University; A Naveen Joseph, Ramesh BK, MV Vijayalakshmi and others to participate; Jnana Jyothi auditorium, Central College Campus; 10 am.

**Book release:** 'The Wanderer Who Owns the World' by Sri Yogi; Organised by Penguin Books; Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; 5 pm.

**CULTURAL**

**Concert:** Suma Sudheendra, Srinidhi Mathur, Ananthakrishna Sharma, TN Ramesh, GS Nagaraj, and others to perform; Bengaluru Gayana Samaja, KR Road; 5.15 pm.

**Play:** 'Naavu Rangadavaru'; Jogathi Manjamma, Purushottam Bilimale, and others to attend; Ada Rangamandira, JC Road; 6.30 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

## ◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

**FORECAST**

Thunderstorm with rain

**TEMPERATURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum | 32.9°C |
| Minimum | 22.0°C |
| Rainfall | -- |
| Humidity | 95% |
| Sunset (May 7) | 6:36 pm |
| Sunrise (May 8) | 5:57 am |
| Moonrise | 10:37 pm |
| Moonset | 9:14 am |

# Bengaluru to host 5th BRICS SAI Summit on May 7 & 8

## Focus will be on strengthening financial oversight

**Discussions to emphasise data-driven audits, technology use and citizen-centric evaluation. The summit to conclude with BRICS SAI Work Plan 2027–28 and Bengaluru Declaration.**

BENGALURU, DHNS

India will host the 5th BRICS Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) Leaders' Summit in Bengaluru on May 7 and 8, under the theme "Ease of Living with a Focus on Urban Mobility".

Organised by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India during the country's BRICS chairmanship year (2026), the summit will bring together 42 delegates, including heads of SAIs from BRICS member nations.

The event will focus on key audit themes, exchange of best practices, and strengthening public financial oversight.

Representing over three billion people and some of the world's fastest-growing urban populations, BRICS countries face shared challenges such as urban mobility, affordable housing, environmental sustainability, and equitable access to public services.

Collective insights from SAIs can play a crucial role in addressing these issues, according to an official statement.

Comptroller and Auditor General of India K Sanjay Murthy will deliver the inaugural address, followed by opening remarks from heads of SAIs and delegations, who will present their national perspectives on auditing urban sector and mobility initiatives. Discussions will center on challenges posed by rapid urbanisation, infrastructure demands, and service delivery.

The summit will also feature a keynote address by OP Agrawal, Distinguished Fellow at NITI Aayog.

Sessions will include presentations by SAIs and partner institutions on themes such as efficiency in public investment in urban mobility, sustainable transport systems, environmental considerations in urban expansion, accountability and improving quality of life.

Presentations are expected from SAIs of Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa and the UAE, along with experts in urban finance and mobility.

Deliberations will focus on capacity building, strengthening audit methodologies, promoting data-driven approaches, leveraging technology and incorporating citizen-centric perspectives in evaluating public services.

The summit will conclude with the adoption of the BRICS SAI Work Plan 2027–28 and the Bengaluru Declaration, followed by closing remarks from the CAG of India, the statement added.

The KSRTC bus that was involved in the pile-up near Dobbspet on Wednesday.

# 10 hurt as six vehicles collide in chain accident near Dobbspet

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** At least 10 people were injured in a chain collision on the Bengaluru–Tumakuru National Highway on Wednesday evening.

The accident occurred near the Dobbspet Post Office Gate, where six vehicles — a KSRTC bus, two cars, a lorry, a jeep and a motorcycle — were involved.

The impact caused the jeep, which was carrying paint cans, to overturn and spill its load onto the highway. The injured were shifted to a hospital in Nelamangala for treatment.

The accident led to a traffic jam on the highway for a while. The stranded lorry was later cleared using a crane, following which traffic was restored, police said.

# Pocso suspect swallows locker key at police station, sent to judicial custody

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** High drama unfolded at the Madanayakanahalli police station after a 22-year-old man allegedly attempted suicide while being questioned in a missing person case.

The suspect, identified as Karthik alias Ramu, a native of Ballari, allegedly swallowed a locker key while in custody, triggering panic among police personnel.

A senior police officer said Ramu had been brought in for questioning in connection with a 17-year-old girl reported missing on April 24 and was later traced using mobile tower location data.

Fearing charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, the accused allegedly tried to end his life. He was immediately rushed to a private hospital, where he remained under police watch for three days. Doctors later retrieved the key through natural excretion.

After being discharged, he was produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody on Pocso charges.

# Engineer trapped through dating app, attacked and robbed; four arrested

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A 27-year-old civil engineer from Yelahanka was assaulted and robbed by a gang of four after being lured through a dating app.

Police have arrested two accused, Darshan and Rajesh, both aged 19, along with two juveniles, all residents of Yelahanka.

The victim, a resident of Chikkajala, had been using the dating app for over a year and recently befriended a man on the platform.

The two exchanged numbers and decided to meet on May 1 near Palanahalli Gate.

Soon after reaching the spot, the victim was allegedly forced into a car by four men, who threatened to expose his sexual orientation and demanded his mobile phone and UPI credentials.

When he refused, he was stabbed on the thigh.

**Looted of phone, Rs 16k**

The accused then robbed his phone and transferred Rs 16,000 via UPI before abandoning him in an isolated area, police said.

The victim sought treatment at a nearby hospital and filed a complaint a day later. Police traced the suspects based on account transaction details and took them into custody.

During the investigation, police found that the gang had targeted at least eight victims using similar modus operandi.

A knife, four mobile phones and a bike used in the crime have been seized and further investigations are on.

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- The travelogue must be original, written in Hindi, and between 3,000 to 3,500 words. Please mention the total word count.
- Travelogue should be typed in double spacing with at least one-inch margins on all sides. Pages must be numbered.
- Participants should mention their **name, designation, age, office / residential address, mother tongue, mobile no., e-mail, word count and title of the travelogue under heading of "Rail Vritant-2026"** in bold letters on a separate paper at the beginning of the travelogue.
- Central/State Government employees must submit a declaration stating that no vigilance, disciplinary, or appeal case is pending against them or under consideration.
- Non-government participants must declare that no criminal case is pending against them and they are not undergoing any punishment.
- All participants must declare: "The concerned rail travelogue is my original work. It has not received award under any other scheme".
- All participants submit two copies of the travelogue, submission of a single copy will result in rejection of the entry.
- Entries received after the last date will not be considered by the Ministry.
- The decision of the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) regarding the conferment of awards shall be final, and no appeal shall be admissible against such decision.

www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in South Western Railways-SWR SWRRLY SWRAILWAYHQ sw_railways

**JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED**
**(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)**
**Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.**
**fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com/gmsp.jbvnl@rediffmail.com**

**E-Procurement Notice**

JBVNL invites online e-tender from reputed, technically experienced and financially sound manufacturers/ supplier only for procurement of following Materials :-

| Sr | NIT/Tender notice No. and description of item | Tender fee | Date of publication of tender on website | Document download start date & time | Online Bid Submission start date | Online Bid Submission end date | Technical bid opening date and time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 69/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked LT XLPE AB Cable 3Cx120 + 1x70 + 1x16 sq.mm | Rs 10000/- + GST | 08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs. | 08/05/2026 from 13:10 Hrs. | 08/05/2026 from 13:20 Hrs. | 05/06/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs. | 09/06/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs. |
| 2 | 70/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked LT XLPE AB Cable 3Cx95 + 1x70 + 1x16 sq.mm | Rs 10000/- + GST | 08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs. | 08/05/2026 from 13:10 Hrs. | 08/05/2026 from 13:20 Hrs. | 05/06/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs. | 09/06/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs. |
| 3 | 71/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked LT XLPE AB Cable 3Cx50 + 1x35 + 1x16 sq.mm | Rs 10000/- + GST | 08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs. | 08/05/2026 from 13:10 Hrs. | 08/05/2026 from 13:20 Hrs. | 05/06/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs. | 09/06/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs. |
| 4 | 72/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked 33 kV XLPE UG Cable 400sqmm | Rs 10000/- + GST | 08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs. | 08/05/2026 from 13:10 Hrs. | 08/05/2026 from 13:20 Hrs. | 05/06/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs. | 09/06/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs. |
| 5 | 73/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked 11 kV XLPE UG Cable 300sqmm | Rs 10000/- + GST | 08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs. | 08/05/2026 from 13:10 Hrs. | 08/05/2026 from 13:20 Hrs. | 05/06/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs. | 09/06/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs. |

**NOTE:- (i)** Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9470378503/ 9430348596, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178
**(ii)** Tender fee & EMD must be paid through online mode.
**(iii)** Tender fee is non-refundable.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

PR.NO.379146 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(26-27):D

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager
Purchase

**DESIGN, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING WORKS**

**E-Tender Notice No. Dy.CEE/CON/RE/08/2025-26 Dated: 30-04-2026.** Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works: **Tender No. ELC-RE-MLG-7-25-26-RT. Name of work:** Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132/27 kV Traction Sub-Station including SCADA, Feeding Post and Shunt Capacitor Bank with Two (02) No. 21.6/30.24 MVA Traction Transformer at Rupai in Tinsukia Division for N.F. Railway, along with associated Civil and S&T Works. **Tender value:** ₹24,73,74,719.66/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹49,47,500/-.**Date & Time of submission of tender: 15.00** hrs. on **01-06-2026 & opening at: 15.00** hrs. on **08-06-2026**. The complete information and tender document of above e-Tender will be available at **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy.CEE/CON/HQ/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
*Serving Customers With A Smile*

**झारखण्ड सरकार**
**जल संसाधन विभाग**

**प्रेस विज्ञप्ति**

जल संसाधन विभाग, झारखण्ड के संकल्प ज्ञापांक–748, दिनांक–16.09.2014 द्वारा झारखण्ड राज्य में लागू "झारखण्ड सहभागिता सिंचाई प्रबंधन नियमावाली 2014" को "झारखण्ड सहभागी सिंचाई प्रबंधन (संशोधन) नियमावली 2025" के रूप में प्रतिस्थापित करने के प्रारूप पर आम जनों का सुझाव/मंतव्य आमंत्रण सूचना।

जल संसाधन विभाग, झारखण्ड के संकल्प ज्ञापांक–748, दिनांक–16.09.2014 द्वारा झारखण्ड राज्य में लागू "झारखण्ड सहभागिता सिंचाई प्रबंधन नियमावाली 2014" को "झारखण्ड सहभागी सिंचाई प्रबंधन (संशोधन) नियमावली 2025" के रूप में प्रतिस्थापित करने हेतु प्रारूप तैयार किया गया है, जिसे विभागीय वेबसाईट wrd.jharkhand.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

एतद् द्वारा जन सामान्य/विशेषज्ञ/संस्थान/गैर सरकारी संगठन (NGO) एवं सभी संबंधित पक्षों से इस पर उनके बहुमूल्य मन्तव्य/सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं, ताकि सम्यक विचारोपरान्त इसे अंतिम रूप दिया जा सके। सुझाव/मन्तव्य विभागीय E-mail Id- cemont-wrd-jhr@nic.in पर भेजा जा सकता है अथवा निम्न पते पर डाक अथवा विशेष दूत द्वारा उपलब्ध कराया जा सकता है।

पता:– मुख्य अभियंता,
योजना, मोनिटरिंग एवं आयोजन,
जल संसाधन विभाग, झारखण्ड
कमरा नं०–16
नेपाल हाउस, डोरण्डा, राँची–834002

अनुरोध है कि समाचार पत्रों में इस प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के प्रकाशन के एक माह के अन्दर अपने बेशकीमती सुझावों से विभाग को अवगत कराने की कृपा की जाय ताकि उनकी समीक्षा कर आवश्यक होने पर प्रस्तावित "झारखण्ड सहभागी सिंचाई प्रबंधन (संशोधन) नियमावली 2025" में समाहित करने पर विचार किया जा सके एवं उक्त नियमावली को अंतिम रूप दिया जा सके।

ह०/–
(मोती लाल पिंगुआ)
अभियंता प्रमुख–I
जल संसाधन विभाग,राँची

PR 379174 Water Resource(26-27).D

**CORRIGENDUM NO. 01 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2026/APR/02 DATED: 20-04-2026**

Corrigendum- 01 for **Tender No. CE-CON-DK-EPC-2026-02** has been published. For details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**
**Chief Engineer/CON/NL Project, Maligaon**
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**
(Construction Organisation)
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**CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2026/APR/01 DATED: 07-04-2026**

Corrigendum- 1 has been issued against **Tender No. CE/CON/KJG/EPC/2026/03**. For details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**
**Chief Engineer/CON/Meghalaya Project, Maligaon**
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**
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**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**
Follow us on X@SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

**TENDER NOTICE No. CEE/P/SC-2x25KV-OHE-HX-RU-GY-PDL-2026-27-02 Date: 05.05.2026**

PUB/181

For and on behalf of the President of the Union of India, Chief Electrical Engineer (Projects), Secunderabad invites (online) e-tender for the following works:

**Sl.No** 1 **Tender No.** 2x25kV-OHE-HX-RU_GY-PDL, Dt. 04.05.2026. **Description of work** Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning for OHE up-gradation of existing 1x25kV system to 2x25kV AT feeding system with feeder and earthing works in Kadapa (HX) (excl.)-Renigunta (RU) (excl.) & Gooty (GY)(excl.)-Pendekallu (PDL) (excl.) section of Guntakal Division under South Central Railway. Total 155 RKM/281 TKM" **Approx. Value** 123,59,17,517.50 **Earnest Money should be pay through online** 2,47,18,400.00 **Cost of Tender form in Rs** Nil **Completion period** 24 Months (Twenty Four Months) **Place of tender opening** Secunderabad

**S.No** 1 **Description** Closing of Tender through e-tender (online) **Time** 15.00 Hrs **Date** 09.06.2026

**S.No** 2 **Description** Opening of Tender through e-tender (online) **Time** 15.30 Hrs **Date** 09.06.2026

If the date of opening of tender happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time. For further tender conditions/details and for submission of Tenders, please visit our website **www.ireps.gov.in** Any modification to the tender documents/corrigendum/addendum if required will be posted on the above website.

A211 **Chief Electrical Engineer (Projects), Secunderabad**

**For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in**

**SPECIAL BRANCH**
**POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL**

NO. SB/Store/2026-25 (332), Bhopal, Dated 29-04-2026

**"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE "**

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P.. Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

| S. No. | Name of Item(s) | Qty. | Tender Fees (Rs.) | EMD (Rs.) | Tender No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in | | |
| 1 | Facial Recognition Solution | 01 | 5,000/- | 1.54,500/- | 1st Tender |

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https ://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule :**

| No. | Tender Activity | Date & Time |
|---|---|---|
| i | E-Tender Publish Date | 30/04/2026 at 1400 hrs. |
| ii | Tender document download Start Date | 30/04/2026 up to 1430 hrs. |
| iii | Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in** | **05/05/2026 up to 1700 hrs.** |
| iv | Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries | 06/05/2026 at 1200 hrs. |
| v | Bid Submission Start Date | 11/05/2026 at 1000 hrs. |
| vi | Last date of online e-Tender submission | 20/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs. |
| vii | Bid will be opened on | 21/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs. |
| viii | Demonstration from | Demo date will be announced Separately |

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

Sd/-
D. I. G. of Police
Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel No. 0755- 2443654

G-12515/26

**SPECIAL BRANCH**
**POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL**

NO. SB/Store/2026-25 (318), Bhopal, Dated 29-04-2026

**"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE "**

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P.. Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

| S. No. | Name of Item(s) | Qty. | Tender Fees (Rs.) | EMD (Rs.) | Tender No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in | | |
| 1 | Zoom Camera with Tripod | 01 | 2,000/- | 21,000/- | 1st Tender |

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https ://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule :**

| No. | Tender Activity | Date & Time |
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| i | E-Tender Publish Date | 30/04/2026 at 1400 hrs. |
| ii | Tender document download Start Date | 30/04/2026 up to 1430 hrs. |
| iii | Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in** | **05/05/2026 up to 1700 hrs.** |
| iv | Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries | 06/05/2026 at 1200 hrs. |
| v | Bid Submission Start Date | 11/05/2026 at 1000 hrs. |
| vi | Last date of online e-Tender submission | 20/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs. |
| vii | Bid will be opened on | 21/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs. |
| viii | Demonstration from | Demo date will be announced Separately |

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

Sd/-
D. I. G. of Police
Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel No. 0755- 2443654

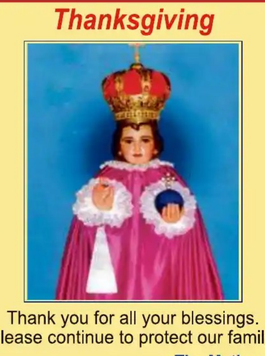
G-12500/26

**Thanksgiving**

*Thanksgiving*

Thanks for the favours received.
- Arathi Muralidhar

*Thanksgiving*



Thank you for all your blessings. Please continue to protect our family.
- The Mathews

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For more Details Contact:
Ph: 080- 45557163/ 164
9845114560 | 9731810277

*Thanksgiving*

Thanks for favour and blessings received continuous to bless us.
- Shobha Cecilia & Jesuine Maria

## Suspended IPS officer Ramachandra Rao reinstated

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Karnataka government on Wednesday revoked the suspension of senior IPS officer K Ramachandra Rao and reinstated him into service with immediate effect.

Rao, who was serving as Director General of Police in the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement, had been placed under suspension pending over initiation of disciplinary proceedings. However, Rao had termed those charges as 'fabricated' and vowed to take legal action.

The proceedings were formally initiated on March 18 under the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969.

According to a government order, the suspension has now been revoked under Rule 3 (7) (c) of the AIS (D&A) Rules.

Following his reinstatement, Rao has been posted as Director General of Police (Police Manual) until further orders. The post has been declared equivalent in rank and responsibilities to that of DGP, Criminal Investigation Department, Special Units and Economic Offences, Bengaluru.

## Govt transfers three senior IPS officers

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The state government on Wednesday has transferred three senior IPS officers. Sandeep Patil, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Karnataka State Reserve Police, has been transferred and posted as IGP, Northern Range, Belagavi, replacing Chetan Singh Rathor.

Chetan Singh Rathor, IGP, Northern Range, Belagavi, has been moved and posted as IGP, Criminal Investigation Department (Economic Offences) in a vacant post.

Anupam Agrawal, who was awaiting posting, has been appointed as IGP, Karnataka State Reserve Police in the upgraded post vacated by Patil.

# State plans NAAC-like accreditation authority

### Objective is to ensure quality higher education

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is planning to establish an accreditation authority to assess and accredit higher education institutions in the state.

This will be on the lines of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) which assesses and accredits institutions at national level. According to the information available from the Higher Education department, setting up of state-level assessment and accreditation authority is one of the recommendations of the State Education Policy (SEP) commission.

As per the plan, the assessment by the state-level authority will be made mandatory to all higher education institutions in Karnataka, both private and government. "The grading or ranking of the institutions by the state authority will play a crucial role in renewal of affiliation, enhancement of seats and others," said a senior official of the department.

"There will be set parameters, which includes the number of qualified faculties, infrastructure, previous year results, courses offered, students strength, placement percentage, skill courses, students grievance redressal, hostel facility etc and the colleges must meet those parameters to get the grading," the official said.

According to the recommendation, there will be A+, A, B+, B, C+, C and D grading. "It will be made mandatory for all the colleges, universities which are three plus years old to get accreditation and update the same on their websites which will help students to decide while getting admission," the official added.

Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar said the idea was to ensure quality higher education in the state. "This is one of the recommendations of the SEP commission and we are waiting for the Cabinet nod for the SEP report. Once it is approved in the Cabinet, we will start implementing the report in a phased manner, which includes establishment of assessment and accreditation authority," Sudhakar added.

However, the SEP report is slated to come up before the Cabinet on Thursday. It was slated before the previous two Cabinet meetings, but was deferred.

# City logs over 17k cybercrimes, accounts for half of top cities: NCRB

### Cops attribute high numbers to robust reporting mechanisms

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Karnataka continued to report the most cybercrimes across India, with Bengaluru alone accounting for over half of the digital offences in metropolitan cities, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report for 2024 released on Wednesday.

Karnataka reported 21,993 cybercrimes in 2024, a tiny increase over 21,889 cases reported the year before. Bengaluru reported 17,561 cybercrimes in 2024, compared to 17,631 in 2023.

Karantaka's rate of cybercrimes stood at 32.2 per one lakh people while the charge sheeting rate was 22.1%. Bengaluru reported a much higher cybercrime rate at 206.6 per one lakh people. Its charge sheeting rate was 24.2%, with 5,096 accused being charged.

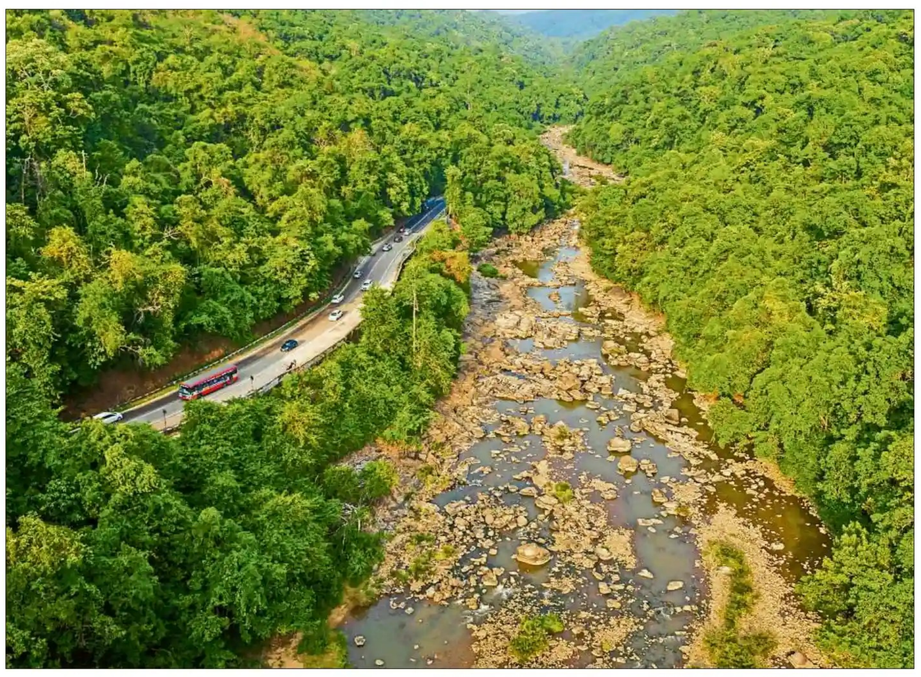
Overall, a total of 34,958 cybercrimes were reported across India in 2024. Of these, Bengaluru alone reported 17,631. Mumbai came second with 4,939 cases, followed by Hyderabad (4,009), Chennai (1,882), Pune (1,504) and Lucknow (1,292).

The bulk of cases reported in Bengaluru were related to computer offences (17,310).

The report also notes that 14,184 cases in the city had been pending from the year before (2023). As many as 13,929 cases were found to have insufficient evidence, could not be traced or had no clue. As many as 3,640 cases were disposed of without trial.

Bengaluru police officers attribute the high cybercrime numbers to increased awareness and robust reporting mechanisms. The city has 11 dedicated cybercrime police stations, besides one at the police commissioner's office. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) also runs a specialised cybercrime wing to investigate high-value cases.

### SUMMER EFFECT



**Kempuhole, a tributary of Kumaradhara river, is almost dry at Shiradi Ghat in Hassan district.** DH PHOTO/FAKRUDDIN H

# 'Jan Seva Sadan' mooted for fast grievance redress

### Data to be mined as policy feedback tool

BENGALURU, DHNS:

A member of the state planning commission has submitted a proposal to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for a 'Karnataka Jan Seva Sadan' — a chief minister-led secretariat for direct public hearings and time-bound grievance disposal.

The permanent secretariat under the CMO will coordinate hearings, assign complaints, track compliance and monitor closure, by mandating a deadline of 7–30 days, based on complexity, to resolve the issue. The cases will be marked closed only after confirmation from the complainant.

The panel has flagged fragmented responsibility, weak ownership and delayed follow-up in the existing system and proposes a unified digital platform with Aadhaar or mobile-based registration.

Citizens will get SMS/WhatsApp updates on action taken. Public dashboards will display pendency, disposal rates and department-wise performance to ensure transparency.

Beyond disposal, grievance data will be mined as a policy feedback tool. Recurring issues in welfare delivery, infrastructure bottlenecks and service delays flagged in complaints will be analysed and fed back into departmental planning and administrative reform.

The proposal follows the CM's recent review with additional chief secretaries and principal secretaries of various departments, where he warned that delayed redressal erodes public trust.

Official data shows 15,295 of 15,334 petitions received in two state-level Janaspandana meetings have been disposed of, with 45 pending.

Under the integrated public grievance redressal system (IPGRS), 3,27,052 applications came in and 3,17,576 were cleared, but 1,828 crossed the stipulated time limit.

## Modi to visit Bengaluru on May 10

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** State BJP leaders on Wednesday held a meeting to make preparations for PM Narendra Modi's visit to state on May 10.

The visit is said to mark the party's electoral success in the just-concluded Assembly elections in which the BJP emerged victorious in West Bengal and Assam.

According to sources, the leaders discussed about arranging a significant gathering to welcome the prime minister at the airport.

The prime minister is expected to then go to Sri Sri Ravishankar's Ashram on Kanakapura Road.

# 2.13L manuscripts mapped in state, B'luru Urban accounts for 56K

**AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The survey by the department of archaeology, museums and heritage to map, digitise and preserve manuscripts is set to complete by May-end.

The department has mapped 2.13 lakh manuscripts so far, including 55,999 in Bengaluru Urban and 48,700 in Bagalkot. Manuscripts from Ballari, Belagavi, Bidar, Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Koppal and other districts are still being mapped.

The state legislature recently passed the Karnataka Jnana Bhandar Manuscripts and Digitisation Act, 2026, to survey, preserve and digitise ancient, rare and scattered manuscripts in the state.

"We have deployed enumerators from Karnataka Sanskrit University in 28 districts, from Oriental Research Institute in two districts and from Karnataka Samskrutha Pratishtana in one district. It is an ongoing project, we aim to find more manuscripts and will complete it by May-end," Devaraj A, commissioner of archaeology department, told *DH*.

The survey covers manuscripts written on palm leaves and paper. Enumerators visit places where they have information about manuscript availability and upload photos and other details, including language, age, location and other information, to an app called Gyan Bharatam. Each district is allocated 4 or 5 enumerators.

Details of manuscript custodians are also uploaded to the app. Enumerators usually visit museums, mutts and other religious places to find manuscripts. Currently, Karnataka Sanskrit University (KSU) has about 40,000 manuscripts.

Dr Vinayak Acharya, nodal officer, KSU, said: "We have provided training for enumerators on how to use the app and upload manuscripts. Irrespective of language or religious locations, we are visiting the places and gathering manuscripts".

He said, "Summer has slowed down our process to some extent as enumerators in north Karnataka find it really difficult to step out in the heat. The other issue is that when manuscripts are available with individuals, they tend to hold back without providing information. Though we try to explain that we will return them once scanned, they do not agree, due to emotional connect. In future, there are plans to preserve them differently, if this is not done right".

# HC: Delay in going to court can't disentitle wife from maintenance

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court has directed the husband, a BHEL employee, to pay Rs 15,000 per month as maintenance to his wife from the date of application till her lifetime, citing the Apex Court ruling that a mere delay in approaching court for maintenance does not disentitle wife from claiming maintenance.

The husband has been directed to pay arrears from March 2016 within two months.

The couple, from Bengaluru, had married in March 1985 and have 3 children - two daughters, both married now, and a son who is an auto driver. The wife contended that her husband is a drunkard and always abused her. The husband was residing in his wife's parental house along with their children. Although, he used to get a salary of Rs 74,000 per month, the wife's parents helped the children in their education. It was submitted that after the wife filed a police complaint in 2010, the husband had undertaken not to cause any harassment in future, but continued his bad vices.

> **JUSTICE MANMADHA RAO,** judge, K'taka HC
>
> "Mere delay on the part of the wife, parents or children is not sufficient to hold that the applicants have waived their right. It has been clarified that there is no waiver against the statutory right. Considering the cost of living for sustenance and medical expenses, it would be just and reasonable to award a sum of Rs 15,000/- to the petitioner-wife towards monthly maintenance.

The wife said her mother had borne the expenses for the marriage of two daughters and that the husband had not paid any money. In 2016, the wife moved the family court seeking maintenance. On Jan 30, 2018, the family court rejected her application observing that the wife had not taken any steps for 13 years about alleged harassment, even though they were living separately. The wife challenged this order before the HC.

Justice K Manmadha Rao cited 2 judgements of the Apex Court while allowing the wife's petition. The court said in the Rajathi v/s C Ganesan case, the top court held that the statement of the wife that she is unable to maintain herself would be enough and it would be for the husband to prove otherwise.

**Airport pickups pay just Rs 7–8 per km via aggregators, pushing drivers to opt for more profitable bypass routes.** DH FILE PHOTO

## Low airport cab fares push drivers away from Ola, Uber kiosks at KIA

**ASRA MAVAD**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Designated pick-up kiosks assigned to app-based aggregators Uber and Ola at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) have been facing cab shortages for the past few months, aggravated by the recent spell of rain.

On Sunday, airport authorities put out a notice requesting passengers to use other ground transport options as the airport was facing a shortage of app-based taxis.

On Monday evening, on-ground staff of both Ola and Uber ushered customers in, promising a five- to 10-minute wait. But long queues told a different story. Passengers who waited for over 30 minutes opted for costlier alternatives.

While airport sources linked the cab shortage to rain and drivers' reluctance to navigate waterlogged roads, cab drivers blamed dwindling profits from the aggregator platforms.

"After all the cuts, Ola and Uber offer Rs 7-8 per km for airport pick-up. This is the reason drivers are avoiding these kiosks. They are instead opting for personal pick-up options," said G Narayanaswamy, president of Karnataka Chalakara Okkuta.

Girish N, a cab driver who uses both Ola and Uber, said he finds it more profitable to drive out of the airport before accepting a booking.

"What I usually do when I have an airport drop is I do not take a pick-up from airport. I instead leave airport, pass toll and then take a booking. This helps me make Rs 100-200 more than an accepted airport ride," he said.

After spending almost four hours on an airport trip, a driver makes only Rs 500 on average, said Tanveer Pasha, president of the Ola Uber Drivers and Owners' Association.

"This includes the time spent on the roads to make it to the airport. On average, most drivers can make only two trips per day, and maybe some can pull off three trips. This has been pushing drivers away from relying on the aggregator platforms for airport return trips for the past two years, and more so in the last six months," he said, adding that the airport had also created a hostile environment for cab drivers.

"In peak of summer, there is no shade for drivers, forced to wait in baking sun. The airport officials have made it clear that they do not want drivers waiting on their premises," he added.

Ola and Uber did not respond to *DH*'s queries.

## B'luru-Mumbai superfast train via Hubballi by June-end: Joshi

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Wednesday that Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had assured him that the much-awaited Bengaluru-Mumbai superfast train would be launched by the end of June this year.

Joshi, who met Vaishnaw here, said that the train would run via Tumakuru, Davangere, Haveri, Hubballi, Dharwad and Belagavi.

The minister said Vaishnaw agreed to upgrade the superfast train into a Vande Bharat sleeper service in the coming days.

### Station devpt

The minister said he also discussed the redevelopment of Hubballi station along with plans to provide modern passenger facilities there.

He also raised the demand for a fresh survey of the Lokapur-Savadatti-Dharwad line.

"The railway minister has responded positively to these points," Joshi posted on X.

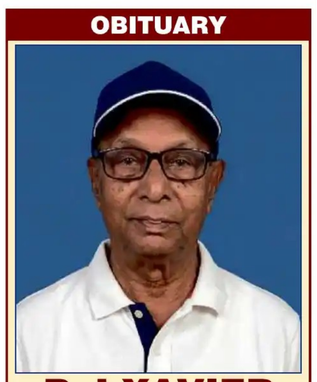
### Better connectivity

"The announcement is expected to significantly improve rail connectivity between Bengaluru and Mumbai, while boosting infrastructure in the Hubballi-Dharwad region," Joshi posted.

## 2 youths drown in sea

**BHATKAL (U-K DISTRICT), DHNS:** Two youths drowned in Arabian sea in Bhatkal taluk on Wednesday. They have been identified as Afroz Noor Mohammed (34) and Rizwan Mohammed Saqir (27).

**OBITUARY**



**B J XAVIER**
Born: 31-10-1934
BHEL Hockey and Cricket CAPTIAN
Passed away on 06-05-2026
Funeral Service on 07-05-2026 at Church Christ The King, 8th Main Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore. Followed by Burial at Kalpalli Christian Cemetery.
Mourned by Family Members
Contact No: 9845600845

# HC directs issuance of short validity passport to 5-yr-old girl for 8 weeks

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The high court has directed the passport authorities to issue a short validity passport in favour of a five-year-old girl for eight weeks.

"The right of a minor child to travel, particularly for the purpose of meeting close family members cannot be curtailed merely because one parent chooses to withhold consent or evade legal process," Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum observed, while allowing the petition filed by the mother of the girl, a resident of Bengaluru.

The girl, through her mother, sought a direction to the passport authorities to process the application.

The mother has instituted proceedings seeking dissolution of marriage against her husband, which is pending before a family court. It was submitted that the child intends to travel to Australia to meet her grandparents during the ensuing summer vacation, and any delay in issuance of passport would prejudice the rights and interests of the minor child.

While notice was served, the father of the child remained unrepresented in the proceedings.

On the other hand, the passport authorities contended that in terms of the governing statutory framework, consent of both parents is ordinarily required for issuance of a passport to a minor.

The authorities are justified in not processing the application in the absence of such consent from the father, it was submitted.

Justice Magadum accepted the reliance placed, the Allahabad high court judgement in the Poem Jaiswar v/s Union of India and another case.

While interpreting the passport rules, the Allahabad High Court had recognized that situations may arise where consent of one parent is not forthcoming due to unavoidable circumstances, and in such contingencies, the rigid insistence on consent of both parents cannot be permitted to defeat the legitimate rights of a minor.

"In the case on hand, the material on record unmistakably indicates subsisting matrimonial discord between the parents. The minor petitioner cannot be made to suffer on account of the acrimony between the spouses. At the same time, the apprehension of respondent No 3–father, though not formally articulated before this court owing to his absence, cannot be completely disregarded," Justice Magadum said.

### Affidavit by mother

Considering that the proposed travel is time-sensitive, the court directed issuance of passport while directing the mother to file an affidavit undertaking that the girl shall return to India within the period stipulated in the passport and shall abide by any further conditions that may be imposed by the passport authority.

## Zameer credited for bypoll win

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Suspended Congress MLC Abdul Jabbar on Wednesday credited the party's victory in the Davangere South bypoll to 'guarantee' schemes and Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan.

"Zameer's visit during campaigining helped reduce the anger. That's why Congress could win by 5,708 votes," Jabbar said.

He was referring to anger within Muslims that someone from their community was not given the ticket.

Asked about the role of lawmakers Saleem Ahmed and Rizwan Arshad in the bypoll win, Jabbar said: "I don't know how much their visit helped."

Jabbar, who was suspended by Congress for anti-party activities, said the the 18,975 votes polled by the SDPI belonged to Congress. "They're all Congress votes, because Muslims were angry," he said.

## CM change: 'Confusion must be resolved'

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday insisted that "confusion" surrounding Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's tenure must be resolved so that it does not impact governance. "This confusion must be resolved. It shouldn't impact governance. I'm hopeful that it'll be clarified," the HM said. "People aren't bothered about our politics. They want governance and programmes," he added.

# Huge pendency of SC/ST land transfer cases despite 2023 amendment

### ACs, DCs using SC's 'reasonable time limit' ruling to dispose of cases

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Statewide protests have erupted over the huge pendency of cases under the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) Act.

Under this law — enacted in 1978 during the chief ministership of Devaraj Urs — lands granted to SC/STs can be bought or sold only after government's approval.

If land is sold without due procedure, it should be reinstated to original owner.

Activists and Dalit organisations have lamented that despite additional legal safeguards such as the 2023 amendment (which removes time restriction on appeal and suo motu action), genuine landholders continue to be denied land due to legal hurdles and "irregularities" by ACs and DCs.

According to revenue department data (as on Dec 17, 2025), 4,818 PTCL cases were pending across courts, while cases went against PTCL petitioners in 1,745 instances.

Last week, hundreds of activists protested at Bengaluru's Freedom Park and sought an appointment with Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

The protests come at a time when Dalit activists have criticised the Congress over "diverting" SCSP/TSP Act funds for guarantees and for not conducting a comprehensive survey of manual scavengers. Some factions have also slammed the government's decision on internal reservation for SCs.

The Supreme Court's judgment in the Nekkanti Rama Lakshmi vs State of Karnataka Case in 2017 created legal hurdles.

Hundreds of activists protest against the huge pendency of cases under the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) Act, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru last week. DH FILE PHOTO

Refusing to restore the land to an applicant who filed the case after 25 years, the SC ruled that there must be a "reasonable time limit" to restore land.

However, the Supreme Court did not define the "reasonable time limit."

In the absence of a strict definition, the matter has been left to interpretation. For instance, the Karnataka High Court in November 2024, considered 12 years as "unreasonable" and refused to restore the land.

In response to the SC's verdict in the Nekkanti Rama Lakshmi case, the Congress government moved an amendment to the PTCL Act, by specifying that there will be no time limit to restore the land if the sale deed violates the prescribed procedure.

PTCL struggle committee president Manjunath said several ACs and DCs were using the Supreme Court's judgment in the Nekkanti Rama Lakshmi case as a "shield" and disposed of cases by citing lapse of "reasonable time."

He sought stricter laws and better supervision by the government.

Researcher Siddharth K Joshi, who recently submitted a study on 'Implementation of laws related to the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes,' explained the legal issues in the 2023 amendment.

Pointing to section 5(D) of the 2023 amendment, Joshi said the 'no time limitation' clause applied only to pending cases.

"As a result, cases that were rejected from 2017-23 weren't considered at all".

Data supports Joshi's claim. Between Nov 1, 2018 and July 15, 2023, as many as 18,172 cases were either pending or rejected in courts (AC, DC, high court and supreme court).

# Speaker administers oath to BJP's Sringeri MLA

### Governor did not exert any pressure on me: Khader

BENGALURU, DHNS

Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader on Wednesday administered the oath to BJP's D N Jeevaraj, who was declared MLA from Sringeri constituency after recounting of postal ballots, at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, following a "nudge" from Governor Thawarchand Gehlot.

The recounting had taken place on May 3, 2026, following the High Court directions in an election petition filed by Jeevaraj.

Leader of the Opposition in Assembly R Ashoka had claimed that the party approached the governor after Jeevaraj was not administered the oath by the Speaker even after the Election Commission issued him certificate and the state government issued gazette notification.

Khader, after the oath ceremony, told reporters that the governor had given no "direction" but informed him about the BJP's appeal made to him. "There has been no delay on my part. We got the Election Commission order (declaring Jeevaraj as the winner) on Monday. On Tuesday, I was in Mangaluru and my office got a request from the MLA at 11.30 am. As I was busy with prior engagements, I came to Bengaluru only today (Wednesday)."

"BJP met the governor in a hurry and I don't know the reason for it. However, to end all speculation, and avoid unnecessary discussion about the (Speaker's) chair, I made time to administer the oath. I will do my constitutional duty," Khader added.

"In a democracy, there should be mutual trust among the Speaker, ruling party and the opposition party. Since it was a special (recounting) case, I needed to examine it legally too and I have done it. The governor did not exert any pressure on me," clarified Khader, admitting he had replied to the governor's letter.

Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader administers oath to BJP's D N Jeevaraj, elected as MLA after recounting of votes from Sringeri Assembly constituency, at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Leaders of Opposition R Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy are seen.

# Mysuru's historic Devaraja Market, Lansdowne Building should be protected: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court has said that the over a century-old Devaraja Market and the Lansdowne Building in Mysuru should be protected, with necessary renovation and restoration work carried out.

The market and building were constructed in the 1880s during the reign of the erstwhile Maharaja of Mysore.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi passed the order on May 4 after examining a report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, on the condition of the two structures.

The apex court had, in September last year, asked the IIT-Roorkee director to constitute an expert committee to evaluate the market and the building, their current condition, and the extent to which they could be preserved as heritage structures.

The bench was hearing a plea challenging an August 2023 order of the Karnataka High Court, which had rejected a petition seeking a direction to the authorities to refrain from demolishing or reconstructing the market and the building.

While hearing the matter on May 4, the bench noted the committee's final conclusions and recommendations.

The committee opined that both the Devaraja Market and the Lansdowne Building can be restored and conserved in view of their immense heritage value.

"It is crucial to note that both structures are part of the Ensemble of Civic Architecture of Mysuru. Further, they embody interconnected and interdependent values, underlining the relevance of these structures in contemporary times and their renewed sustenance in the future," the report said.

It said a detailed and scientifically sound evaluation needs to be undertaken, and a conservation plan needs to be implemented for restoring these structures.

The report said many severely deteriorated or damaged elements of the structures would even need reconstruction as part of this overall restoration work.

The bench asked the apex court registry to provide a copy of the report to the counsel appearing for the respective parties.

"In view of the report of the committee, we are of the view that both the structures should be protected and necessary renovations and restoration work should be undertaken," the bench said.

It further said that a comprehensive plan needed to be prepared by the Mysuru City Corporation and the Mysuru Urban Development Authority. The bench directed both to proceed further in line with the report of the committee.

"Let the necessary exercise be undertaken at the earliest so as to ensure that no further damage is caused to the two structures," the top court said.

It said the corporation and the authority shall also look into the recommendations and suggestions made by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on July 30.

In September last year, the top court noted that, as per INTACH's report, the structures could be preserved with some repair and retrofitting.

A file photo of the Lansdowne Building in Mysuru.

# Citizens can withdraw erroneous e-khata applications

BENGALURU, DHNS

Citizens will now be allowed to withdraw erroneously submitted e-khata applications, said Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), on Wednesday.

Munish Moudgil.

He was speaking at a workshop conducted for revenue officials on new features and enhancements introduced in the e-khata system.

**The system also incorporates auto-validation and approval for properties marked as "ready for transaction/ registration" after verification of the Encumbrance Certificate (EC).**

During the session, he said that 13.05 lakh SAS ID-based properties can now seamlessly download their e-khata certificates and apply for final e-khata through the online system.

This feature will benefit property owners whose e-khata certificates contain errors.

In addition, a provision has been introduced to allow applicants to withdraw wrongly submitted e-khata applications, improving flexibility and reducing procedural bottlenecks.

The system also incorporates auto-validation and approval for properties marked as "ready for transaction/registration" after verification of the Encumbrance Certificate (EC). This is expected to expedite property transactions.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Deeply mourned by Dr J G R Solomon Preetham, Annie, Daniel, Nathaniel and Monica.
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, GUDISELA TALURU ROUTHU, holder of Indian Passport No. X3280765 having permanent address No. 9, 9th Cross, Park Area, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560027, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as ROUTHU (given name) and TALARU FANKASAIAH (surname).

CHANGE OF NAME
I, TALARU FANKASAIAH YESU KURPAWATHI, holder of Indian Passport No. X3280764 having permanent address No. 9, 9th Cross, Park Area, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560027, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as YESU KRUPAWATHI (given name) and TALARU FANKASAIAH (surname).

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM III-A
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, DHARWAD BENCH
WRIT PETITION NO. 100529/2024 (S-KAT)
(Notice under Rule 13(a) proviso)
PETITIONER
SRI NARAYAN SADANAND RAIKAR S/O. SADANAND RAIKAR Aged about 48 years, R/o. Raikar Chawl, Nehru Nagar, Mundagod, Tq: Mundagod, Dist: UttaraKannada 581349.
(By Sri: H.M Dharigond, Umesh Ainapur & Sushma S. Angadi, Advs) Vs
Respondents: 1. Karnataka Public Service Commission Two others.
To,
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT NO. 3 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION
3. Sri Padmanabha H.R. S/o. Revanna aged about 44 years, working as Assistant Engineer national highways division, No. 14/3, 4th Floor, Aravind Bhavan, N.T. Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Whereas, a Writ Petition filed by the above named petitioner under Article 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India, as in the copy annexed hereunto, has been registered by this court.
Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorised by law to act for you in this case, at. 10.30 A.M. in the forenoon of 11.06.2026 show cause why rule nisi should not be issued.
If you fail so to appear on the said date or any subsequent date to which the matter may be posted as directed by the court, without any further notice, the petition will be dealt with, heard and decided on merits in your absence.
Issued under my hand and the seal of this court on THE 21ST DAY OF APRIL 2026.
By order of the Court.
Advocate for Petitioner
1. Umesh Ainapur.
2. Sushma S Angadi.
3. H.M Dharigond
Sd/-
Assistant Registrar

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University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering
K.R. Circle, Bengaluru
No. UVCE/2025-26/IND0014/Call-2 Date : 05.05.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

| NAME OF THE WORK | Supply, installation and Commissioning of Multimedia Studio for University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, Bengaluru |
|---|---|
| EMD | Rs. 80,000.00 |
| LAST DATE FOR QUERIES | 12-05-2026, 11.00 AM |
| PRE BID MEETING DATE AND PLACE | 08-05-2026, 11.00 AM |
| LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER | 13-05-2026, 05.00 PM |
| OPENING OF THE TECHNICAL BID | 15-05-2026, 11.00 AM |

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.
Sd/-
Registrar (Interim)
University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering
DIPR/CP/538/SA/2026-27

Govt. of Karnataka
Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road, Bangalore - 560 002.
Tel: 080-26700810, Telefax: 080-26704342
e-mail: director_bmcri@yahoo.co.in Website : www.bmcri.org
No. BMCRI/SUP(1)/119/2025-26 Date: 05.05.2026
E-Tender Notification
E-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for Selection of Chartered Accountant's Firms for the Statutory Audit (Section 10b) of Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute and Its allied Hospitals and Nursing College for 2025-26 and Preparation of Ucs of around 20 projects pertaining to any financial years, Filing of IT TDS, GST TDS and Consultancy Services on GST and IT during the 2026-27.
The tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 07.05.2026** and last date for submission of tenders through KPP portal website is **21.05.2026 upto 5.00 pm.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected.
For further details contact Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore.
Sd/- Director cum Dean
BMCRI, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/YC/532/2026-27

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# Crimes dipped by 6% across country in 2024: NCRB

## 58.85L cases during the year, down from 62.41L in 2023

NEW DELHI, PTI

India recorded 58.85 lakh crimes in 2024, a 6% dip from 2023 when 62.41 lakh cases were reported, according to the latest figures released by the National Crime Records Bureau on Wednesday.

Crime rate, which is a measure of cases registered per lakh population, also dipped from 448.3 in 2023 to 418.9 in 2024, it revealed.

Cases registered under the 'Hurt' category registered under Indian Penal Code sections 325, 326 and 329-335 saw a major decline, 30.58%, from over 6.36 lakh cases in 2023 to over 4.41 lakh cases in 2024, the data showed.

The report, however, clarified that the dip in cases of 'Hurt or Grievous Hurt' may be attributed to the changes in Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita introduced in 2023, which replaced the Indian Penal Code, where these sections had been merged and simple 'Hurt' being made a non-cognisable offence.

During the year, a total of 27,049 cases of murder were registered, showing a marginal decline of 2.4% over the previous year, with 'disputes' being the leading motive behind the crimes, followed by 'personal vendetta or enmity' and 'gain', it said.

'Crime against women' showed a dip of 1.5% from the previous year, with 4.41 lakh cases lodged in 2024 as compared to 4.48 lakh the previous year.

'Cruelty by husband or relatives' was the leading cause of such crimes, followed by kidnapping, crime against minors, assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty, the data said.

"The crime rate registered per lakh women population was 64.6 in 2024 in comparison with 66.2 in 2023," it said.

The report showed that a total of 55,698 cases were registered for crimes against Scheduled Castes, showing a decrease of 3.6% over 2023, when 57,789 cases were registered.

Crimes against Scheduled Tribes showed a sharp decline of 23.1%, with a total of 9,966 cases in 2024, as compared to 12,960 cases in 2023.

**CASE TRENDS**

- Crime rate at 418 per lakh population, down from 448
- 'Hurt' cases plunge 30% from 6.36 lakh to 4.41 lakh
- Murder cases marginally down; disputes lead motive
- Crimes against women dip 1.5%
- Cruelty by husband/ relatives tops category

# SC asks if 1986 Dawoodi Bohra PIL is maintainable

## Plea questioned community leader's excommunication powers

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday raised questions over the maintainability of a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the Central Board of the Dawoodi Bohra Community in 1986.

The PIL asked whether the supreme leader of the close-knit community could excommunicate any member, and if this was constitutionally protected as a religious practice.

In 1986, the board filed this PIL seeking to set aside a 1962 judgment in the case of Sardar Syedna Taher Saifuddin Saheb, which had struck down the Bombay Prevention of Excommunication Act, 1949, making excommunication of any community member illegal.

A nine-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant was hearing petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, and the scope of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths, including Dawoodi Bohras.

The bench also comprised Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan, and Joymalya Bagchi.

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

- Nine-judge Constitution bench is hearing petitions related to various religious practices
- They include discrimination against women in religious places and the scope of religious freedom of various faiths
- 1986 plea sought to set aside judgment that made excommunication illegal

### Human dignity

Senior advocate Raju Ramachandran contended that he represented a group of reformist Dawoodi Bohras and one individual whose father, the late Asghar Ali Engineer, was a victim of excommunication and whose family suffered as a result.

He argued that excommunication in Dawoodi Bohras directly impinged upon human dignity, similar to Parsi women who faced religious censure for entering into interfaith marriages. He said that the head of the Dawoodi Bohra sect was called the "Dai", which was a sect of Shia Muslims.

He said the unique feature of the Dawoodi Bohra faith was that the Dai was the supreme authority.

He said the issue was not about the mere imposition of religious discipline. He contended that the question was about the proportionality of the punishment and its impact on human dignity.

# Malayalam classic 'Amma Ariyan' restored, heads to Cannes

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Auteur John Abraham's Malayalam political film 'Amma Ariyan' (Report to Mother) has been restored in 4K by the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), Mumbai. It will be screened at the 79th Cannes Film Festival beginning May 12.

The 1986 avant-garde film will be the only Indian feature at the festival, according to a press statement.

Following the death of a young Naxalite, 'Amma Ariyan' traces his friends' journey from the northern hills of Wayanad to Kochi to inform his mother. The British Film Institute (BFI) ranked the film among the 10 greatest Indian films of all time.

John Abraham is widely regarded as one of the most radical voices in Indian cinema. He defied conventional storytelling, polished aesthetics and commercial frameworks to create films that were raw, collective and politically charged. The film is the final work of the filmmaker who made just four films before his untimely death in 1987 at the age of 49.

# No kebabs, no biryani: UP cuisine list sparks row

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

**POLICY PLATE**

- Uttar Pradesh rolls out 'ODOC' to promote local dishes with better branding, packaging, and market reach
- Iconic items like Lucknow's galouti kebabs, biryani, nihari, and Rampuri mutton dishes excluded, sparking criticism
- Experts call the list "half-baked" and biased, while the government says it is only promoting vegetarian dishes, not restricting food choices
- List highlights district-specific veg items—petha (Agra), peda (Mathura), revdi (Meerut), kachori (multiple districts), among others

Biryani

Petha

The much-publicised 'One District, One Cuisine' (ODOC) scheme of the Uttar Pradesh government, aimed at promoting traditional delicacies from all districts, has sparked controversy with several famous non-vegetarian dishes of Lucknow—including galouti kebab, Awadhi biryani and nihari kulcha — missing from the list.

The official list featured only vegetarian items, with no non-veg delicacies included, prompting criticism from food lovers.

UP Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Rakesh Sachan said the state Cabinet had approved the ODOC scheme under which traditional delicacies from every district — such as Lucknow's revdi, Agra's petha, Mathura's peda and Meerut's gajak — would be given renewed identity.

He said these delicacies would be promoted and marketed both domestically and internationally through modern technology, attractive packaging and branding.

The minister added that confectioners (halwais) preparing these items would receive technical training and financial assistance. A budgetary allocation of Rs 150 crore has been made for the scheme in the current financial year.

He said the initiative aims to preserve traditional flavours, generate employment and strengthen the distinct identity of each district.

The omission of non-vegetarian delicacies from the list invited sharp criticism from food lovers, who said that many iconic dishes from Lucknow, Moradabad, Rampur and other places are renowned worldwide and that the list is incomplete without them.

"People from across the country come to Lucknow to savour galouti kebabs, nihari kulcha and Awadhi biryani," said a local resident.

President Cuisine Society of India and well-known food historian Pushpesh Pant described the all-vegetarian ODOC platter as "half baked" measure.

He said, "This seems to be a half baked move that smacks of bigotry. In short, ignorant nonsense." Pant made it clear that he was all for vegetarian dishes. "I love all dishes. All I am saying is why engage in selective discrimination?"

(*With PTI inputs*)

# School panels to include parents: Centre unveils policy

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Wednesday unveiled a new policy for school management committees, making parents a key part of the panel. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that each of these panels will be chaired by a parent, with the school's principal being the member secretary.

"It will be six years since the NEP 2020 was launched, and to make it accessible to all sections of society, there are approximately 15 lakh schools in our country. In all these schools, the school management committee will work to build a bridge between students, teachers and society. We are trying to hand over education and school management to society," Pradhan said.

As per the guidelines, every school must constitute an SMC within a month of the academic session. The new guidelines replace the existing School Management Development Committees (SMDCs), extending them to secondary and senior secondary schools till class 12. A three-year school development plan, annual sub-plans, and social audits are part of the rules.

Sanjay Kumar, secretary of school education, said that this will bring uniformity and bring in the local community to be a part of education. "When the local community gets involved, it means better coverage of schemes meant for the children, such as PM Shri," Kumar said.

While a parent or guardian will be the chairperson and the vice-chairperson, parents from all grades will be members of the SMC, with other members being elected members of the local authority, teachers of the school, as well as local educators, experts, academicians, alumni, ASHA or AWW workers. The principal will be the member secretary.

The SMCs must meet at least once a month, with 50% minimum quorum, and a school development plan must be prepared by the SMC for three years, with annual sub plans.

The SMC will have sub-committees, including a school building committee, which will oversee planning, management, supervision, and maintenance of construction costing up to Rs 30 lakh.

# New Bengal chief minister to take oath on May 9

**Bengal, From Page 1**

The choice of the date appears to be a move reflecting the saffron party's continuing bid to embed itself in the cultural fabric of the state. The newly elected 207 BJP legislators will hold a meeting in Kolkata on Friday and elect the legislature party's leader, who would take over as the chief minister of the new government, Samik Bhattacharya, the party's state unit chief, told journalists.

He said the new chief minister would take oath at 10 am on Saturday.

Bhattacharya himself is also a frontrunner for the office of the chief minister, along with Suvendu Adhikari, who emerged as the most prominent face of the BJP in West Bengal since joining the party after quitting the Trinamool Congress in December 2020.

### Observer and co-observer

Shah and Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will attend the meeting of the newly elected legislators as the observer and co-observer on behalf of the BJP's high command.

The other contenders for the office of the chief minister included the party veterans like Dilip Ghosh, Sukanta Majumdar, Anandamay Barman and Swapan Dasgupta. The new government may have a deputy chief minister or two, according to the BJP sources.

Had Mamata resigned, Ravi would have asked her to continue as the caretaker chief minister till her successor was sworn in.

But, in view of her refusal to step down, the Governor might dismiss her government after the end of the term of the state Assembly and recommend imposition of the President's Rule for a day till the new chief minister took oath.

# Vijay's swearing-in on hold as Guv asks numbers

**Vijay, From Page 1**

The party has reached out to the CPM, CPI, and the VCK, whose combined strength is six.

While the IUML, which has two seats, has made it clear it won't support Vijay, the two Left parties and the VCK said they have received TVK's request and will take a decision "very soon".

If the aforementioned three parties extend support to Vijay, the number will reach 119 and he can easily form the government.

P D T Achary, former Lok Sabha Secretary-General, said the Governor has the responsibility to see that the person who stakes claim to form government has the requisite number.

"He can form an opinion that whether he enjoys the majority and appointment of the chief minister is entirely the discretion of the Governor. He can take that view (of asking for numbers) just to satisfy himself about the numbers. The place where the numbers are tested is only the Assembly," he told *DH*.

Meanwhile, the Lok Bhavan said on Wednesday that Arlekar dissolved the 16th Legislative Assembly with effect from May 5.

# Restore Tungabhdara on priority, central panel tells Karnataka

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

A central committee has advised the state government to take up restoration of River Tungabhadra on priority, even as it acknowledged that the number of polluted river stretches has come down and the sewage treatment has been stepped up.

The Central Monitoring Committee (CMC), Department of Water Resources - Ministry of Jal Shakti, noted that "deterioration" was observed in the water quality of Tungabhadra that has brought the river under top priority for restoration, along with Arkavathi and Dakshina Pinakini.

"State to prepare action plan for restoration of River Tungabahadra on priority. The action plan proposed for the year 2026-27 for restoration of polluted river stretches be submitted by the end of (April) for discussion in the next CMC meeting," the committee, which met recently, said.

### Reuse treated water

Committee Chairman V L Kantha Rao, secretary, Department of Water Resources, directed the state government to formulate and adopt a policy for reuse of treated wastewater. The direction came after state government submitted that the utilisation capacity of the sewage treatment plants (STPs) had increased from 63% to 77%. In addition, 108 new STPs were under construction. It said a further update on the sewage treatment management would be submitted to the ministry shortly.

### State claims improvement

Karnataka originally had 17 polluted river stretches in the 2018. Five river stretches (Malaprabha, Asangi-Krishna, Yagachi, Kumaradhara and Kali) were removed from the list in 2022, following a report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The Board, however, added five other stretches (Aghanashini, Sharavathi, Thenpennai, Dakshina Pinakini and Gangavali). Karnataka had later told the board that Thenpennai and Dakshina Pinakini are the same.

Last year, the CPCB updated the list again and added stretches of Malaprabha and Ghataprabha, taking the total polluted stretches to 14. The state environment authorities have submitted that as per an analysis report conducted by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board in 2022 and 2023, the number of polluted stretches were much lower.

One river stretch (Arkavathi) fell ender Class IV, five (Bhima, Kabini, Lakshmanatheertha, Shimsha and Tungabhadra) were falling under priority Class V and the average river water quality (Biological Oxygen Demand) of the remaining eight rivers (Bhadra, Cauvery, Kagina, Krishna, Thenpennai, Tunga, Malaprabha and Ghataprabha) did not exceed 3.0 mg/litre. "As such the number of polluted river stretches will be 06 in Karnataka," the authorities said.

**Folk artistes rest for a while before the commencement of a procession to mark Siddarameshwara Jayanti in Mysuru on Wednesday.** DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

# Interim maintenance can't be rejected on belief 'applicant not likely to succeed': HC

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The family court cannot refuse to grant interim maintenance and expense of proceedings under section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act solely on the ground/belief of the court that the applicant is not likely to succeed in the dispute, the high court of Karnataka said while setting aside an order of a family court in Bengaluru.

The wife had filed an application before the family court seeking Rs 50,000 per month as interim maintenance and Rs one lakh as litigation costs under section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act. It is contended that the wife is studying BCom, unemployed and that the husband works as an accountant in Dubai and is earning Rs 8 lakh per month. On the other hand, the husband submitted that the wife is gainfully employed and she is financially stable. It was further submitted that the wife refused to join the matrimonial home in Dubai despite his repeated requests. On September 17, 2025, the family court dismissed the wife's application observing that the husband and wife lived together only for about sic to seven months and hence, the wife was not entitled to seek interim maintenance and litigation expenses. The wife challenged this order before the high court.

Justice K Manmadha Rao noted that the primary objective of maintenance pendente lite and litigation expenses under the Hindu Marriage Act, is to provide financial support to the claimant spouse, enabling them to maintain themselves and sustain the legal proceedings. While adjudicating an application under section 24, the family court exercises its discretion in passing an order regarding the interim maintenance amount that a spouse may be required to pay to the other based on reasonable grounds, the court said.

"It is also pertinent to note that the Court's discretion is judicial and not arbitrary in nature. Such judicial discretion must be exercised within the ambit of Section 24, considering the objective of the Act and adhering to the ideal principles of the matrimonial law," Justice Manmadha Rao said.

The court further pointed out that the Hindu Marriage Act, under Section 24, does not lay down any rigid rule for deciding the quantum of interim maintenance. The court has now remitted the matter back to the family court for fresh consideration about the affidavit of assets and liabilities along with other materials.

# Dry eyes now affect all age groups, blame it on screen usage & lifestyle

## Condition has also become alarming in women going through menopause

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Doctors warn that dry eye is no longer just an age-related condition but an emerging urban lifestyle disorder, driven by screens, climate and indoor living.

The condition has also become alarming in women going through menopause.

Many patients tend to ignore early warning signs or self-medicate with over-the-counter eye drops, often seeking help only when symptoms begin to interfere with daily functioning, doctors note.

Explaining the link between weather and the condition, Dr Ashwin Santosh Shetty, Consultant, Ophthalmology, said, "During summer months, heat and dryness affect the eyes, as high temperatures cause faster evaporation of tears, reducing natural moisture on the eye surface, while hot winds and low humidity make it harder for the eyes to stay lubricated."

He also pointed out that the trend is more visible among IT professionals and students. "Air-conditioners reduce indoor humidity and create a dry airflow that speeds up tear evaporation, while prolonged screen use lowers blink rate, causing tears to spread less evenly across the eye surface, and indoor settings worsen dryness."

Doctors point out that the condition is severely underreported, as patients do not consider it serious and end up using lubricants available over the counter. "There is growing concern about the overuse of over-the-counter lubricating eye drops. The drops offer short-term relief, but their unsupervised or excessive application leads to hidden health issues, which include infections, allergies, and chronic tear film dysfunction. It will also hinder the doctor's diagnosis process and treatment plan development," explained Dr Bhavya Reddy, Consultant, Ophthalmology.

The condition has now been diagnosed in children around 10 years of age due to uncontrolled screen time, the doctor noted. "Ophthalmologists have identified dry eye symptoms in patients as young as 11 and 12 years old because of their extended screen time for multiple hours. Computer Vision Syndrome now affects people of all ages because they watch screens for three hours or longer," she said.

### Hormonal changes

Doctors acknowledge that dry eye in postmenopausal women is very common, and hormonal changes affect tear film stability and meibomian gland function.

Dr Advaith Sai Alampur, Cataract and Refractive Surgeon, said, "Dry eye can be associated with systemic conditions like Sjogren's syndrome, thyroid eye disease, and rheumatoid arthritis. These conditions affect tear production or ocular surface inflammation. So, persistent or severe dry eyes in postmenopausal women should prompt a more holistic evaluation."

Explaining the role of Hormone Replacement Therapy, the doctor said, "The relationship is complex. Some studies suggest estrogen-only HRT may actually worsen dry eye, while combined regimens have variable effects. Clinically, I have seen mixed responses; targeted ocular therapy is still essential."

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

# Defiant Mamata signals democracy's strain

There is much pique in Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee's response to the defeat of her party in the West Bengal Assembly elections, and extends an acrimonious poll campaign beyond the results. She has refused to accept defeat and step down as Chief Minister, claiming the elections were unfair and alleging conspiracy in their conduct. A chief minister's refusal to resign after an electoral defeat presents an entirely new situation; this is uncharted constitutional territory. Implicit in this is a divergence between constitutional intent and democratic convention. The Constitution does not clearly demand the resignation of a defeated chief minister. The incumbent can hold office until a new chief minister is sworn in. So, Mamata's refusal is not legally wrong, but it is democratically improper.

Legality is only the alphabet of the democratic process; its meaning reflects in actions that comply with the spirit of the mandate, expressed formally through elections, and informally through multiple ways of popular engagement and conventions. There is no doubt where propriety lies, and if Mamata sticks to her decision, the Constitution has its ways to assert itself. Her dismissal from office and even more severe actions can be contemplated. The resulting drama will be more political than legal, and Mamata would rather flaunt herself in rebellious political colours than present herself as someone following process and procedure.

**Her refusal to resign clashes with conventions, underscoring an erosion of the political institution**

Mamata's stance shows that politics is moving away from its known paths of assertion, resistance, and established means of remediation and relief. The democratic process is under stress in the country. Serious questions about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) procedures, which impacted elections in West Bengal at least in terms of inclusion and participation, have not been answered. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is under a shadow; doubts exist about the judiciary's ability to provide remedies and guidance. The government has long ceased to be fair; it has used instruments at its disposal to politically perpetuate itself and weaken the Opposition. Mamata has thrived on rebellion and drama, but her present defiance does not stem from mere personal desperation. It also signals a crisis inflicted on Opposition parties and a larger crisis of politics as such. This does not augur well. Through her actions, Mamata may be mimicking those who seize power unfairly and refuse to quit. The symbolism is striking and unnerving. As in governance, politics has due processes; when these fail, the system comes under undue attack.

# Safeguards lost in a cycle of neglect

The accident at the Tontadarya Mutt fair in Gadag, where at least 18 people were injured – some critically – after a high-speed amusement ride malfunctioned, is a grim reminder of warnings repeatedly ignored. The immediate response followed a familiar script: police cases, arrests of organisers and contractors, and public outrage. Yet, as is often the case, the law went nowhere near the officials whose negligence and possible complicity enabled the tragedy. Karnataka has seen this pattern before. The 2004 disaster at Sammy's Dreamland near Bengaluru remains one of the starkest examples, where a ride collapsed, leaving several grievously injured. Investigations later revealed expired licences, overloading, and poor maintenance. Two decades on, little appears to have changed. More recent incidents, from the fatal zipline snap in Ramanagara in 2024 to the giant-wheel malfunction in Mangaluru, highlight the same failures: ageing equipment, temporary repairs, and a near-total absence of rigorous inspection. Across India, similar tragedies have unfolded. A bungee jumping cord failure in Rishikesh, fatal paragliding accidents in Himachal Pradesh, and incidents linked to adventure sports in Goa point to a nationwide malaise. The common thread is not merely mechanical failure but administrative indifference.

The standard response has been to place blame on the contractors and operators. While their culpability is undeniable, it is only one part of a larger chain of negligence. Operating such rides requires a public amusement licence, backed by multiple No Objection Certificates – from revenue authorities, police, the Public Works Department for mechanical fitness, the electrical inspectorate, and fire services. Each clearance is meant to serve as a safeguard. But in practice, they often devolve into a paper exercise. The Tontadarya Mutt incident raises an uncomfortable, yet familiar question: who certified these rides as safe? When accidents occur, the more likely explanation is that inspections were cursory, compliance was assumed, or violations were overlooked. In such a scenario, responsibility must extend to officials who grant permissions – or turn the other way when safety norms are compromised. The Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, who oversee district administration and law and order, must provide answers.

**The accident in Gadag calls for stronger corrective measures to ensure administrative accountability**

Until accountability moves up the chain, these tragedies will recur with disturbing regularity. The Gadag incident must not become another entry in a long list of avoidable accidents. It should mark a turning point where the state recognises that bureaucratic neglect cannot be allowed to undermine public safety. Institutional indifference is as dangerous as any mechanical fault, if not more.

CARE DEFICIT

# Health for all: A long road to the promised right

Karnataka's Draft Bill is short on enforceable standards and risks enabling greater privatisation of healthcare

**KATHYAYINI CHAMARAJ AND ASHA KILARU**

The Karnataka government has framed a Draft Karnataka Right to Health and Emergency Medical Service Bill, 2025, but its moves ahead of enacting the Bill create doubts about intent. Whether the effect of a recent policy, to rationalise care by reallocation of staff to busier taluk hospitals, will result in some closures of low-volume primary and community health centres remains to be seen. The irony cannot be missed when the state's 2026-27 budget document says: "In health, the focus will remain on expanding primary healthcare networks, upgrading district and tertiary care facilities". The Bill must be passed with standards for the right to health set before these changes are enforced.

Given the current standards of health services, the government has a long way to go to fulfil the right to health. Despite being one of India's richest states, Karnataka falls behind on key indicators, such as maternal and infant mortality rates, levels of anaemia, and child under-nutrition. Karnataka has allocated 4.3% of its expenditure towards health for 2026-27, lower than the average allocation for health by states in 2025-2026 (6.2%; PRS India analysis).

The state is also grappling with poor infrastructure in its healthcare institutions, large-scale vacancies at all levels, a lack of medicines and preventive screening systems, and inefficient early management of diseases and disorders. Multi-morbidity is on the rise, while the increasing incidence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) – accounting for over 60% of the state's disease burden – indicates an epidemiological crisis.

Karnataka Janaarogya Chaluvali (KJC) has noted the risks of the Draft Bill legitimising large-scale privatisation by empanelling hospitals and outsourcing ambulance services, but without effective regulation of private hospitals and their costs. Sarvatrika Arogya Andolana Karnataka (SAAK) says the entitlements defined in the Bill are not comprehensive and lack the minimum features of an effective Right to Health Act. For instance, the Bill fails to incorporate what percentage of the state budget is needed to provide 'health for all'; the human resources policy to ensure the availability of doctors and staff; the standards for infrastructure and the geographical/demographic criteria for providing healthcare facilities, etc. The Bill states that these will be determined according to standards "as may be prescribed."

In effect, the Bill is only an enabling legislation, expressing an aspirational wish-list and commits to no standards of service that a rights-based law should have prescribed. The state plans to frame these standards on the advice of the State Health Authority. There is no mention of adherence to the Indian

Public Health Standards (IPHS).

KJC has demanded that the Bill "explicitly provide the right to universal, free healthcare services... for ALL citizens for ALL health conditions," without exceptions. The Bill proposes free healthcare only to "eligible households," as defined in the National Food Security Act.

In most countries with free healthcare, the models are based on the ILO Social Security Convention. The National Health Service (NHS) of England is primarily funded by the government, through deductions from wages of employees earning above a certain level, and equal contributions from employers, which makes the employers accountable for the health of their workforce. Karnataka can enact a similar law to finance a universal right to health. In this scenario, the government would have to contribute on behalf of those earning below threshold levels. The Draft Bill does not discuss potential financing models along these lines.

While regulating the private sector, a provision that private entities provide at least 25% of their services free to the poor may be incorporated, in line with a similar provision in the RTE Act, as many hospitals have received land from the government at subsidised rates.

### Accountability is missing

Strikingly, there is no mention of community-level participation platforms such as the Arogya Raksha Samitis and the Mahila Arogya Samitis. These are important stakeholders, similar to the school management committees in the RTE Act and vigilance committees in the Food Security Act. Forging active linkages between patients, the public, and health professionals is key to designing, evaluating, and improving healthcare.

Another feature missing in the Draft Bill is the role of local authorities – the Gram Panchayats and municipal councils – in ensuring decentralised implementation of the right to health, which is essential for democratic self-determination and accountability. The RTE Act, in comparison, has assigned duties on local authorities to provide the necessary infrastructure, ensure implementation of the functions devolved to them, and provide grievance redress at the local level.

Instead of making local authorities accountable, given their responsibility in planning for their areas and localising the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Draft Bill assigns the responsibility of social audits, too, to the State Health Authority, denoting a conflict of interest. Social audits require independent teams with experts and community members, functioning under the guidance of the CAG.

The role of the final appeals authority for grievance redress, assigned in the Bill to the State Health Authority (which appears to be an advisor, executor, and regulator), also presents a conflict. This is contrary to provisions in the RTE Act or the Right to Food Act, where the ultimate appeals authority is an autonomous body outside the government, namely, the State Commission on Child Rights and the State Commission on Right to Food.

Unless these gaps are closed and the principles of universal healthcare are meaningfully embedded, the Bill risks projecting ambition while falling short of delivering the very right it claims to uphold.

*(Kathyayini is executive trustee of CIVIC-Bangalore; Asha is founder-trustee of CIVIC-Bangalore, a public health specialist, and member, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan [People's Health Movement])*

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

# The Devi I tried to drop

I am still burdened with my middle name, but take comfort in the Bard's words

**SUDHA DEVI NAYAK**

I have always been averse to my middle name. 'Devi' on a standalone basis was fine—even exotic, I thought—invoking divinity, but tagged on to my first name, it sounded a trifle trite. Those were the days of middle names, whereas today, in the age of the tweet and the sound bite, the shorter the name, the better. There were girls in school with long names like Bhagirathi Lakshminarayanan and Madhavi Malati Bandopadhyay, and our nuns in school, hailing from New Zealand to Ireland, never seemed to go beyond 'Bhagi' and brought down the latter to 'Maddie'. My 'Devi' too was ignored till I forgot it myself, except when it was time for filling in forms for my school-leaving examination. I dutifully wrote it down and promptly forgot about it again.

My two sisters were also Devis, but they cleverly managed to dispense with them while filling out their forms. So they have remained plain Uma and Radha. I was foolish enough to retain the Devi and have been the butt of many jokes, good and ill-humoured. "With Devi around, why do we need to bother?" or "There goes forth Devi*ji*. Quick, where are the flowers and the incense?"

When I joined a large public sector organisation, my name and specimen signature needed to be circulated across the organisation. I saw this as a heaven-sent opportunity to ditch the Devi once and for all. But my spouse, who was more conservative and overly superstitious, prevented me: "This is the name gifted to you by your parents, and your certificates carry it; it would be inauspicious to leave it out."

Imagining dreadful fallouts in a newfound career, I meekly complied. Thus, I am still burdened with my middle name, but it goes to my credit that I had the sense to scrap it from my signature, which does not even carry the 'D' of Devi in it. However, my letters of accolades and promotions proudly included Devi. I don't know where they are today except in my dwindling memory.

When one of my friends, having read an article of mine in a national daily, asked me, "Since when have you transformed yourself into a Devi?" I replied blandly, "I was always one."

"Why didn't we get to know of it?"

"What would you have done?" I queried. His reply was, "Why, we would have placed you in a *mandap*, strewn flowers around you and worshipped you with heartfelt devotion."

At least, I thought I had escaped that fate. Thank the Lord for slender mercies!

I take comfort in the bard's words, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Message from voters: Perform or perish

Apropos 'BJP breaches Bengal, TN gets a Jana Nayagan' (May 5), it is heartening that the 15 years of misrule of the TMC have come to an end, and Tamil Nadu is witnessing winds of change. The broader shift in the voters' sentiments across both urban and rural constituencies caused heavy damage to the TMC. Meanwhile, the actor-turned-politician C Joseph Vijay has shattered the Dravidian duopoly of the DMK and the AIADMK. With this, it is evident that the nation's mood has undergone a sea change. The message to the political parties is clear. They should learn to meet voters' aspirations through policies that improve the overall quality of life. They must perform, or they will perish.

**M A Madhusudan**, Bengaluru

## Mamata's outburst

Mamata Banerjee hurling invectives at the Election Commission and the BJP is unbecoming of a leader. Losers must learn to accept defeat graciously and not cry 'conspiracy'. It is regrettable that the TMC supremo fails to acknowledge the verdict humbly.

**H V Sridhar**, Bengaluru

## BJP's leadership vacuum

The bypoll results in Karnataka have once again proved that the BJP has no popular leader to lead the party in the state. The central leadership appears to believe that Yediyurappa will play a crucial role in the next Assembly elections. But the fact is that his popularity is on the wane and his own community has distanced from him. Now is the time for the central leadership to replace the party's present state chief Vijayendra and appoint a popular leader to regain the lost popularity before it is too late.

**Surappa Ravindranath**, Bengaluru

## Dissent under detention

After four months the Bombay High Court has allowed Sangram Patil, a UK doctor of Indian origin, to return to the UK. He was detained in India—his crime? He had posted a video critical of the BJP leadership on social media. It is unfortunate, but we appear to be living in a police state where a fine scientist like Sonam Wangchuk can be arrested and then, months later, released, with no trial and no explanations, and most certainly, no apologies. There are hundreds of such victims of State harassment languishing in jails.

**Anil Bagarka**, Mumbai

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

It is a blatant betrayal of the people who voted believing that a DMK-led government would be formed. Just as the BJP resorts to all sorts of tactics to seize power, the Congress has done the same in Tamil Nadu.

**T R Baalu**, DMK leader
(on the Congress joining hands with TVK)

It's hard to tell who has your back, from who has it long enough just to stab you in it...

**Nicole Richie**

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

# Bengal's vote and the Dhaka reset

Diplomacy with an assertive neighbour will require the BJP to tone down its rhetoric on illegal migration

**PARUL CHANDRA**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s historic rise to power in West Bengal could prove to be a double-edged sword for India-Bangladesh relations. A lot now depends on how the party balances its domestic political agenda, wherein it has relentlessly targeted Bangladeshis as "infiltrators," with the strategic necessity to build strong ties with Dhaka.

India has already signalled its intent to smooth over bilateral friction by opting for a political appointee, former Union minister Dinesh Trivedi, as its envoy to Bangladesh. By selecting Trivedi, New Delhi is hopeful that a seasoned politician can transcend hurdles that often stymie career diplomats in dealing with foreign political leadership.

However, the reset that the two countries are seeking since the Tarique Rahman-led government took charge in Dhaka in February will not be easy. The BJP's sharp rhetoric on illegal migrants, which reached a fever pitch during the recent Assembly elections in West Bengal and Assam, poses a challenge. Recent remarks by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who boasted about Bangladeshis being "pushed back" under the cover of darkness from the Indian side, underscore this tension. Dhaka was swift to respond, describing the comments as disparaging while summoning the acting Indian High Commissioner to register a formal protest.

Sarma's remarks were not surprising, in sync as they were with the BJP's concerted campaign against ghuspaithiye (infiltrators) from Bangladesh. A few years ago, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was then the BJP president, described Bangladeshi migrants as "termites."

While the BJP has used the illegal migration issue to fuel its relentless, strident discourse against minorities and reap huge electoral benefits, it is viewed with deep apprehension by the Muslim-majority Bangladesh.

Undoubtedly, India for decades has grappled with illegal migration from Bangladesh, which has altered demographics in some areas and posed genuine national security challenges. While this issue needs to be addressed by both sides with sustained dialogue, the BJP leadership's frequent provocative remarks only serve to fuel the anti-India sentiment in Bangladesh.

Both Assam and West Bengal, which share long and porous borders with Bangladesh, have been polarised by the BJP's campaign against illegal migrants and the need for their mass deportations. With its own government now in place in West Bengal, the Centre could well press ahead with border fencing and implement the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC). Such measures, however, may adversely impact a relationship in a state of normalisation. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-led government in Dhaka will be far less accommodating than the previous Sheikh Hasina regime.

### New regime, new challenges

Under the India-leaning Hasina, Dhaka was quite responsive to New Delhi's concerns – be it on connectivity, cracking down on North-East militants sheltering on Bangladeshi soil, dealing with China while remaining mindful of India's strategic interests, and not creating much fuss about New Delhi's inability to deliver the Teesta water-sharing treaty or bridge the huge trade deficit.

Tarique Rahman, Prime Minister for the first time, is under pressure to deliver in a country hobbled by economic woes and unemployment. With a resurgent Jamaat-e-Islami as the main Opposition, the Rahman government knows that any overtures to New Delhi may come with the Islamist outfit further whipping up anti-India sentiments.

While the BNP has historically held an anti-India posture, Rahman has refrained, so far, from hostile rhetoric, knowing well that the two neighbours' strategic interests are inextricably intertwined. But his patience may run thin. This could drive Bangladesh closer to a waiting China. Bangladesh foreign minister Khalilur Rahman's trip to China, soon after he visited India, signals to New Delhi this potential pivot. India, therefore, will need to tread carefully and ensure the issue of illegal migrants does not damage the overall relationship with Bangladesh.

With the Trinamool Congress's 15-year reign in West Bengal over, the Teesta Pact is expected to return to the centre stage. It was held up owing to resistance from the then chief minister, Mamata Banerjee. Dhaka has already stated its wish that the proposed pact be removed from the back burner.

Both Delhi and Dhaka know they need each other to protect their strategic and economic interests in the region. The BNP government has emphasised to India that it wants a "mutually beneficial" relationship. It has also enunciated a policy of 'Bangladesh First', marking clear red lines regarding its national interests. India, too, must deftly balance its domestic politics with its strategic imperatives and foreign policy. For starters, the shrill political rhetoric against "infiltrators" needs to be drastically toned down.

*(The writer is a senior journalist)*

# From Sankar-Ajan to Sankar-Madhab 'only': How BJP saffronised Assam

DATELINE GUWAHATI

SUMIR KARMAKAR

'The BJP can't penetrate much into Assamese society. Assam is a land of Sankar-Ajan,' a bhakat, or a resident monk in a satra—a Vaishnavite monastery at Majuli, the world's largest inhabited island and the centre of Neo-Vaishnavite culture in eastern Assam—told me just days before the Assembly elections in April 2016.

Sitting on a large wooden mechanised boat on the Brahmaputra (Majuli is an island in the mighty river), he was referring to Shrimanta Sankardeb, the 15th-16th century saint who propagated Neo-Vaishnavism through the satras across Assam, emphasising unity and secularism. The monk also invoked Ajan Fakir, an Islamic saint who landed about 200 years later, in the 17th century. He had similarly shaped a syncretic cultural ethos in the Brahmaputra Valley.

The monk then dismissed the argument that the Narendra Modi wave, after the BJP's 2014 national victory, had reached Assam. "Let them try", he said, sarcastically.

Days later, the BJP and its allies—the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the Bodoland People's Front (BPF)—stormed to power, riding on an "anti-infiltration" narrative against the 15-year Congress government led by Tarun Gogoi. It was the BJP's first government in Assam, with Sarbananda Sonowal as the chief minister. Sonowal, elected from Majuli, helped the party secure over 50% of the votes there, despite a long-standing perception of the constituency as a bastion of secularism. The BJP inducted Sonowal as he headed the All Assam Students' Union that had spearheaded the six-year-long Assam Agitation, or the anti-foreigners movement (1979–1985).

In 2016, the BJP won 60 of the 126 Assembly seats, while the AGP and BPF secured 14 and 12 seats, respectively. The party framed its victory as a response to an "identity crisis" caused by "illegal migration" from Bangladesh. Sonowal accused the Congress of pursuing "Muslim appeasement", a charge that would become central to the BJP's political messaging in Assam.

Since then, the BJP has steadily bettered its tally, even as the foreigners issue remains unresolved. The alliance retained power in 2021 with 4% more votes. On May 4, it recorded its best performance in Assam, winning 102 seats, with the BJP alone securing 82—22 more than in 2021. The campaign once again leaned heavily on the "anti-infiltrator" narrative, reinforcing a Hinduva-driven political frame against the Congress's appeal to secularism.

The BJP, however, faced a major backlash in Assam in 2020. The passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) triggered widespread protests across Assam. Many saw the Act as contrary to the BJP's "anti-infiltrator" brand, as it offers citizenship to non-Muslim "persecuted" migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan till 2014. "Assam will never accept the post-1971 migrants, be they Hindus or Muslims," many, including the AASU, had declared ahead of the 2021 polls. The 1971 cut-off was decided for the detection of foreigners only in Assam to quell the Assam Agitation.

Faced with intense backlash, the Modi government excluded tribal areas under the Sixth Schedule from CAA's purview. Simultaneously, the BJP recalibrated its messaging, arguing that granting citizenship to Hindu migrants was necessary to counter a perceived demographic threat from "Bangladeshi Muslims". This helped the BJP consolidate Hindu Bengali votes—crucial in around 40 constituencies—while retaining support among pro-Hindutva Assamese voters.

At the same time, leaders such as Himanta Biswa Sarma, who switched to the BJP from the Congress in 2015 and became the Chief Minister in 2021, sought to reframe Assam's cultural narrative. Sarma rejected the idea of Assam as a "land of Sankar-Ajan", calling it a Congress-era construct. "We know Assam as a land of Sankardeb, Madhabdeb, and Damodardeb only," Sarma emphasised frequently, mostly before elections. Madhabdeb and Damodardeb were the disciples of Sankardeb and carried forward the Neo-Vaishnavite Movement in Assam.

The renaming of places and institutions associated with Islamic heritage—including Karimganj district, rechristened as Shri Bhumi in 2024, and the removal of former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed's name from a medical college in Barpeta—has reinforced a cultural realignment.

Equally significant was the delimitation exercise carried out in Assam in 2023. It reduced the number of Muslim-dominated constituencies from around 30 to 22, while increasing seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes from 16 to 19 and adding one more Scheduled Caste seat. The number of constituencies in the Bodoland Territorial Region, an autonomous council under the Sixth Schedule, rose from 11 to 15, and one was added in Karbi Anglong. In contrast, seats in the Bengali-dominated Barak Valley were reduced from 15 to 13.

As criticism mounted over the BJP's inability to resolve the foreigners' issue, Sarma intensified eviction drives targeting Bengali-speaking Muslims and initiated "push-back" measures at the border. Acknowledging the constraints of formal deportation, he argued that the aim was to create conditions that would compel the Bangladeshi Muslims to leave.

Along with these measures, the government expanded welfare schemes, including cash transfers for women, satras, and Vaishnavite monks. Eviction drives were also carried out to reclaim land for satras, while the redevelopment of Batadrava Than—the birthplace of Srimanta Sankardeb—in Nagaon district carried both cultural and political significance.

The electoral outcome reflects the cumulative impact of these strategies. The Congress recorded its worst-ever performance, winning just 19 seats. Notably, 18 of its 19 MLAs are Muslims. The BJP did not field a Muslim candidate. The party has used this to sharpen its attack, portraying the Congress as a 'Miya party'.

The Congress, meanwhile, attempted to counter this with its promise of a *Notun Bor Asom* (a new greater Assam) of unity and communal harmony. "Assam is a land of Sankar Ajan," Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi repeatedly asserted during the campaigns. But Sarma on Tuesday said the slogan turned disastrous for the Congress as it blurred distinctions between the indigenous communities as well as the Sanatani Hindus and the "Bangladeshi Muslims". **DHNS**

The White House is turning to rhetorical leaps as President Trump tries to put the biggest political crisis of his presidency behind him

DAVID E SANGER

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

# White House insists Iran war is over, even while missiles fly

When the ceasefire in the war with Iran went into effect a month ago, President Donald Trump was pretty direct that if the Iranians failed to end their nuclear programme, or to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, the bombers would be back in the air. "If there's no deal, fighting resumes," he said, making it very clear this was just a pause.

But it turns out, according to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, that the war actually ended at some point after the ceasefire took hold, or so he told reporters at a news conference at the White House on Tuesday. "The Operation Epic Fury is concluded," he said. "We achieved the objective of that operation." The effort to reopen the strait, Rubio said, is entirely a defensive and humanitarian operation that would result in direct military exchanges with the Iranians only if US ships came under fire.

Later Tuesday, Trump announced that he was pausing even that effort — which was only one day old, and had succeeded in getting just a few ships freed — "for a short period of time," citing what he said was "great progress" towards an agreement with Iran. But he kept the American blockade in place, part of a strategy of maximum economic pressure.

Still, Trump's suspension of the effort to guide ships out of the strait seemed to contradict the administration's stated position that it was intolerable for Iran to block an international waterway, and that only the US had the ability to force it open again.

For the White House, the insistence that the war was over was the latest rhetorical leap in an effort to put a war that has created the greatest political crisis of Trump's presidency in the rearview mirror. But the mere proclamation does not make it true. Missiles were still flying. Both sides insist they control traffic in the waterway.

And despite Rubio's declaration that the objectives of the war have been accomplished, they clearly have not. In the 38 days of intensive combat operations, the US hit, by the Pentagon's count, about 13,000 targets. But destroying targets was not the only point. Trump himself described his objectives in the early hours of February 28, when he told the country, in a video he had recorded earlier, that he had five major goals.

The first, of course, was to ensure that Iran can "never have a nuclear weapon." But he went on to add that the US had to destroy Iran's ballistic missiles and their launchers, sink its navy, end its support of terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas and, finally, create the conditions for the Iranian people to topple their government.

The Iranian navy is clearly gone, as Trump often notes. But that is the only one checked off the list. So far, Iran's nuclear stockpile has not been touched and there is no agreement, at least yet, to ship it out of the country or to dilute it so that it cannot easily be used to manufacture weapons. While intelligence estimates differ, the US assessments suggest that more than half of Iran's missiles and launchers survived. It is too early to tell about support of the proxy groups, which were shredded by Israeli attacks.

And Trump has abandoned talk of changing the country's leadership, suggesting at one point that he never called for it. At other moments he has maintained that regime change already happened, citing the emergence of a new supreme leader and other officials, replacing those who were killed. To most Iran experts — and many in the US intelligence agencies — that is a change of personnel.

Nonetheless, both Trump and Rubio have many reasons to declare that Epic Fury ended at some undefined date in the recent past. Congress was getting increasingly restive about the War Powers Act, which demands a vote of approval by Congress after US troops are involved in combat for more than 60 days. His political base has fractured on the question of whether Trump has dispensed with his own promise to get the US out of lengthy wars. And Trump delayed his trip to China once to make sure that the war was over, that the US was victorious and that the strait was open before he touched down in Beijing. That trip is now scheduled for next Wednesday.

Trump's language has changed, too, though even he has not gone so far as to declare that the operation is ended. He cannot quite seem to keep himself from describing the current situation as a war, even if he has begun to back away. "Our country is booming now, despite the fact that we're in a — I call it a miniwar," he said at a White House event for small businesses Monday.

In other speeches, he has interspersed the word "war" with other, more benign descriptions: Attacking Iran was an "excursion," he said. At another point he described it as a "detour," making it sound more like a weekend drive across the Middle East that hit some traffic.

While it all sounds like politically convenient wordplay, any real declaration that the battle is over represents a fundamental change in strategy, even for a war in which the White House seemed to be making up its next move day by day. For the past nine weeks, US military power, and the prospect that it could resume, was the leverage Trump celebrated as the steel behind negotiations. Nothing would focus Iranian minds, he suggested, like the prospect of further destruction.

Indeed, when negotiations over the future of the nuclear programme broke down in late February, the US bombing was designed to force Iran to make concessions. But the bombing campaign, while destructive, did not alter Iran's fundamental positions, at least yet. And the Revolutionary Guard's success at sealing off the strait — bottling up tankers and cargo ships and sending oil and fertiliser markets into a frenzy — changed the dynamic. Trump's frustration was clear: He threatened even heavier strikes — and attacks on power plants — if Iran refused to relent, lashing out with expletives on social media.

The Iranians ignored it, then a few days later Trump warned, "A whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back again." Then came the ceasefire.

But Iran's restraint fell apart after Trump on Sunday announced a new operation to guide ships through the narrow strait, on a pathway that had been declared free of mines. Iranian forces shot at two ships the following day, but the missiles were intercepted by US forces. Gen Dan Caine, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday that since the ceasefire took effect, Iran had attacked US forces more than 10 times, but that the attacks were "all below the threshold of restarting major combat operations at this point."

Caine added that defining that threshold was "a political decision," meaning it was Trump's decision. And Trump, pressed a few hours later to explain where he put that threshold, told reporters, "You'll find out, because I'll let you know."

"They know what to do," he said of the Iranians. "They know what not to do."

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said Tuesday morning that the new military effort to guide merchant vessels through the Strait of Hormuz should be understood as a completely separate enterprise, and a temporary defensive effort.

"We're not looking for a fight," said Hegseth, who only a few weeks ago was celebrating American firepower against Iran and urging "maximum lethality." But he noted that US warships shot down cruise missiles and drones that Iran fired at the ships and commercial vessels, and that Army Apache helicopter gunships also sank six Iranian military speedboats that threatened the vessels.

Now the administration has moved from declaring that military strikes would change Iran's leaders to insisting that it is really economic cutoffs that will do the trick. Rubio said the US was now cutting off revenue that keeps together "whatever remains of their frail economy."

**The New York Times**

# Childhood trapped in pixels

UPASHA KUMARI

Screen addiction in children is no longer a fringe concern. It is fast becoming the default condition of growing up. Recent reports underline the intensity of this crisis. In Ahmedabad, parents of a 16-year-old girl have hired bouncers to guard her round the clock, spending about Rs 65,000 a month. The teenager, according to doctors, had become addicted to social media and turned violent whenever her device was taken away. The issue is not only the number of hours spent on devices but also the erosion of attention, relationships, and emotional regulation. Children are increasingly present everywhere digitally, yet absent from the spaces that shape social life, such as playgrounds, conversations, and unstructured moments that build emotional intelligence.

The most insidious dimension of this challenge lies in how seamlessly digital dependency in children has been normalised. Screens are embedded in schooling, entertainment, and even parenting itself. The tablet at the dinner table or the phone handed over to keep a child occupied may appear harmless, but over time it conditions dependency. The child does not just consume content. They begin to outsource boredom, curiosity, and even comfort to a device.

As Michael Rich of Harvard Medical School and the Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health notes, the developing brain is continuously forming and refining neural connections, with digital media influencing this process in significant ways. Screen-based engagement often provides relatively limited stimulation compared to real-world experiences. Children therefore need a balanced range of online and offline activities, along with unstructured time. He emphasises that moments of boredom are essential, as they nurture creativity and imagination.

The National Education Policy 2020 strongly advocates experiential learning, critical thinking, and holistic development, yet it simultaneously accelerates the integration of digital platforms into classrooms without adequately addressing their cognitive and behavioural implications. EdTech, positioned as a tool of access and efficiency, is increasingly becoming a substitute for engagement. When digital exposure is normalised within formal schooling, efforts to regulate it at home become fragmented and inconsistent. The burden of balance is shifted almost entirely onto families, without systemic guidance or safeguards. Parental response is often delayed and reactive, taking the form of restriction rather than intentional formation. Boundaries introduced in adolescence are often negotiated or resisted. Those introduced in early childhood become part of the child's habits and worldview. The question is not whether to regulate screens, but when and how. Early boundary setting through clear limits on screen time, device-free zones, and intentional routines creates a framework within which children learn balance.

However, rules without modelling do not work. A parent absorbed in their screen cannot convincingly demand disengagement from a child. The more difficult and necessary intervention is being available, not just physically but attentively; it signals that relationships matter more than devices. It is in these moments that children learn to sit with boredom, initiate conversation, imagine, and relate.

Addressing screen dependency in children requires a structured and preventive approach rather than reactive restriction. The starting point is to establish stable daily routines with fixed times for sleep, meals, study, and basic self-care. Screen time should be regulated gradually with clear boundaries, such as limited hours and conditional access after essential tasks are completed. Equally important is creating meaningful offline engagement through physical activity, hobbies, and unstructured play, ensuring that screens are replaced with richer experiences rather than simply removed. Devices should be kept in shared spaces with defined usage windows to reduce overuse. Alongside this, consistent and calm parenting, without excessive confrontation, helps reinforce boundaries. In cases where withdrawal, aggression, or neglect of daily functioning becomes pronounced, timely intervention through school support systems or mental health professionals is essential to restore balance.

If boundaries are not set early, they will be enforced later under far more difficult and often confrontational conditions. Screen addiction is not an isolated behavioural issue; it is a symptom of a wider environment that privileges convenience, speed, and constant stimulation over connection, patience, and presence. Addressing it, therefore, is not simply about reducing screen time but about reclaiming intentionality in how childhood is shaped.

*(The author writes on education and international relations and is the co-author of* Creativity and Critical Pedagogy in Education*)*

## OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

**50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976**

### Gandhiji's assassination: Ketkar not guilty of concealing data

Poona, May 6
Mr. Gajanan Vishwanath Ketkar, 78-year-old former editor of a local Marathi daily, today won a court acquittal of the charge of intentionally concealing prior information about the conspiracy to assassinate Mahatma Gandhi. Delivering the judgment, First Class Judicial Magistrate R. V. Tukdev observed that the prosecution had failed to prove that the accused intentionally omitted to give the information as required under Section 44 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code.

**25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001**

### 6 hit men sent to kill Tehelka chief arrested

New Delhi, May 6
Police today arrested six hit men of Pakistan's ISI allegedly for plotting to assassinate Mr Tarun Tejpal, editor-in-chief of internet portal *Tehelka.com*, which was in the limelight in recent months for its expose on corruption in defence deals. A special team of Delhi police arrested the men in North West Delhi on their arrival from Nepal in a Tata Safari, Special Commissioner (Intelligence) S Ramakrishnan told newspersons here.

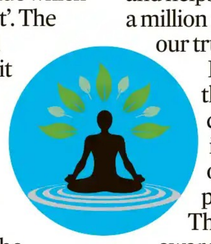
OASIS | PRASANNA S HARIHAR

# In search of the self, beyond self

'Who am I?' is a million-dollar question which is synonymous with the teachings of Bhagwan Ramana. It is the process of self-realisation where we become aware of our own true nature. It becomes clear that we are not this body and mind that we think we are, a process of tracing everything back to the source.

Bhagwan Ramana Maharshi's quote is apt here – "The thought 'Who am I?' will destroy all other thoughts, and like the stick used for stirring the burning pyre, it will itself in the end get destroyed. Then, there will arise self-realisation."

Why is this question even worth a million dollars? It can be reasoned thus: we 'attach' importance to items in this world to tag a commercial value which then becomes an 'attachment'. The assumed importance of I and mine is the summation; then it is worth more than a million. This attachment has strayed us from knowing our true nature.



Bhagwan's another quote may help understand this better: 'After negating all of the abovementioned as "not this" and "not this", awareness, which alone remains – that I am." We need to inquire into these 'attachments' which have a fleeting existence. This process, termed *neti-neti* in Vedanta, suggests 'not this' and helps to compensate for the loss of a million dollars with an awareness of our true nature.

Back to the original quote, the stick in effect is the constant churning in our inward journey in our *buddhi*, or intellect, through the process of *vichara*, or inquiry. The mind's final sublation in awareness is termed *manonasha* in Vedanta, one of the three ingredients for self-realisation, the other two being *vaasanakshaya* (decimation of past imprints) and *tattvajnana* (steady knowledge of That).

The light is at the end of an internal tunnel leading to self-realisation – You are That. By knowing this illumining light, everything else is known then – no need to stay attached or chase anything, inside or outside. A state of equanimity is attained since there is nothing to be chased. The knowledge that dawns is 'That' is our own true nature – also present in everything around us, and nothing out there is different from 'That', in essence.

Oh, what an insightful answer to a million-dollar question, which dissolves itself. A peace engulfing us as 'That' is everything and only bliss, in essence.

# 'More important': SC refuses to defer hearing on CEC appointment law

## Declines govt's plea on petitions against validity of law

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined the Centre's plea to defer hearings on petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the 2023 law that removed the Chief Justice of India from the committee responsible for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the deputies, saying that the matter is "more important" than the Sabarimala case.

A nine-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant is currently hearing petitions regarding discrimination against women at religious sites, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, as well as the scope of religious freedom across various faiths.

Taking up the pleas against the 2023 law, Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma turned down the request by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, to adjourn the hearing on the grounds that he was currently occupied before a nine-judge bench in the Sabarimala reference case.

Referring to the gravity of the current challenge to the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, Justice Datta said, "This matter is more important than any other matter."

"All matters are important. We read in the newspapers that there is an observation that the PIL in Sabarimala should not have been entertained. So, with due respect to the judges, nine judges are occupied in a matter where there is an observation that it should not have been entertained in the first place," Justice Datta said.

**PRIORITY MATTER**

- Justice Datta says electoral law graver than religious site PILs
- Court weighs if it can direct Parliament to legislate appointments
- CJI Surya Kant earlier recused citing conflict of interest

The bench then directed the petitioners to conclude their arguments by Thursday, allowing the Centre to present its submissions on a subsequent date.

During the hearing, the court asked whether it could direct Parliament to enact a law regulating the appointment procedures of the CEC and the deputies. The bench noted that in the Anoop Baranwal case, a Constitution bench had laid down an interim mechanism to address the vacuum until Parliament passed such a law.

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appearing for one of the petitioners, argued that while Parliament can legislate on the appointment of the CEC and ECs, it cannot directly or indirectly overrule a judgment of a constitutional court. He contended that since the ruling party has a direct stake in election outcomes, executive control over appointments creates a conflict of interest.

Earlier, on March 20, CJI Surya Kant recused himself from hearing the petitions. "I will be accused of a conflict of interest. There is a conflict of interest," he said.

The law, enacted by Parliament in December 2023, came months after a landmark verdict by which the apex court directed that election commissioners be appointed by a committee comprising the prime minister, the leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India.

The bench had said that the system will remain in force till a law is enacted.

Under the 2023 Act, the selection committee consists of the PM, a Union minister nominated by the PM and the leader of the Opposition.

## PM to attend swearing-in of Bihar ministers today

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Buoyed by the spectacular wins in West Bengal and Assam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the swearing-in function of new ministers in the Samrat Choudhary Cabinet in Patna on Thursday.

Samrat took an oath as the chief minister on April 15, along with two Deputy CMs from the JD(U). But he did not induct any other ministers into the Cabinet.

Along with Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president Nitin Nabin, former Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Union ministers JP Nadda, Chirag Paswan and Jitan Ram Manjhi are likely to attend the event.

Nitish's son Nishant has agreed to join the government, and he is likely to be sworn in on Thursday, according to a source close to both the former CM and his son.

Altogether 27 ministers will be sworn in on Thursday, representing the five NDA allies—the BJP, JD(U), LJP, HAM (Hindustan Awam Morcha) and the RLM (Rashtriya Lok Morcha).

"The ratio will remain the same: 16:16:2:1:1. Presently, only 27 ministers will be sworn in in the ratio of 12:11:2:1:1, as there are already two Deputy CMs from the JD (U), besides the chief minister himself. This will take the ministerial strength to 30. The remaining six berths have been left vacant so as to fill the post as and when a situation arises to fulfil others' aspirations," said a senior ruling party source.

## Centre to urge Bengal, TN to roll out education schemes

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** After the results of the Assembly polls in West Bengal, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, the Centre is keen on pushing for the implementation of educational schemes that were put on hold by the states' previous governments.

Union Education Ministry sources said that they would write to the secretaries of these states to implement education schemes like the language policy, the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) initiative, and the Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) scheme.

A senior ministry official said that in the letter, it will urge West Bengal and Tamil Nadu to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the PM SHRI scheme so that state-run schools can roll it out soon. Kerala signed the MoU in 2025, but eventually did not implement the scheme.

"We are hopeful that now some of our key schemes, like the PM SHRI, will be implemented. Letters will be sent to the chief secretaries from the ministry soon to pursue that," the ministry official said.

## Rahul alleges 'vote theft' behind BJP MPs' wins

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Ratcheting up his campaign on 'vote chori', Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday claimed that every sixth BJP MP in the Lok Sabha has won through "vote theft" and asked whether they should be described, in the BJP's own term, as "infiltrators".

"Through vote theft, sometimes seats are stolen, and at other times, an entire government. Out of the 240 BJP MPs in the Lok Sabha, roughly every sixth MP has won through vote theft. It is not hard to identify them—should we call them 'infiltrators' in the BJP's own language?" the Congress leader posted on 'X'.

# Congress backs TVK, quits DMK alliance

## Stalin's party reminds of its support in troubled times

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Breaking its longstanding alliance with the DMK, the Congress on Wednesday jumped ship to support the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) to form the next government in Tamil Nadu, and announced that the new coalition would continue for next year's municipal elections and the 2029 Lok Sabha polls.

Immediately after announcing the decision, AICC in-charge for Tamil Nadu Girish Chodankar, TNCC chief K Selva Perunthagai, and AIPC chairman Praveen Chakravarthy drove to TVK chief C Joseph Vijay's office in Panaiyur and handed him a letter of support from five MLAs.

Life has come a full circle for the Congress in Tamil Nadu. It will be part of the ruling coalition in the state for the first time since 1967, when it was thrown out by the DMK. Now, the Congress will join a government led by the TVK, which has overthrown the DMK and defeated its offshoot, the AIADMK.

Chodankar, whom the DMK blamed for the strain in the alliance ahead of the polls, said in a statement that the people of Tamil Nadu — especially the youth — had delivered a very clear, strong, and overwhelming verdict for a secular, progressive, and welfarist government.

"Our support shall be conditional upon the TVK keeping out of this alliance any communal forces that do not believe in the Constitution," he said.

Chodankar added that the TVK and the Congress would strive to bring back the "glorious days" of late chief minister K Kamaraj. He added that Vijay and Rahul Gandhi jointly pledge to respect this verdict of the people for a secular and progressive government, and to fulfil the people's dreams and promises.

**POLITICAL REJIG**

- DMK threw Congress out of power in 1967
- Now, Congress is returning to power with TVK after defeating DMK and its offshoot, AIADMK
- Cong sets condition for support: Keep communal forces out of alliance
- Says new tie-up will strive to bring back 'glorious days' of late CM K Kamaraj

Sources told *DH* that the Congress conveyed its decision to the DMK before releasing the statement.

Reacting sharply to the decision, the DMK said the Congress was free to support any party, but should also accept and respect the people's verdict. "Defeat is not new to us; backstabbing is also not new to us. But one should remember nothing is permanent," DMK treasurer T R Baalu said in a statement.

He also reminded the Congress of the DMK's help in troubled times, and recalled how Rahul Gandhi called M K Stalin his brother.

The Congress move was expected, especially after Rahul Gandhi spoke to Vijay on the day of the election results.

The Congress wanted to quit the DMK alliance and join the TVK before the elections, but senior leaders decided to contest with the ruling party.

# Kerala vote share: Mixed picture for NDA, increase for UDF

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The BJP reopened its account in Kerala by winning three seats in the Assembly polls — its best electoral performance in the state. However, the vote-share numbers present a mixed picture for the saffron party.

As per the provisional vote shares of the three fronts in this election, compared to the 2021 assembly polls, the Congress-led UDF's vote share increased by 7.14 percentage points or pp (from 39.41% to 46.55%), while that of the CPM-led LDF decreased by 7.64 pp (45.28% to 37.64%).

The BJP-led NDA's vote share of 12.48% in the 2021 Assembly polls has risen slightly to 14.2%—up 1.72 pp. However, that vote share is lower than the 19.26% it received in the 2024 Lok Sabha election and slightly lower than the 14.71% in the 2025 Kerala local-body polls.

Ex-Kerala CM Oommen Chandy's son Chandy Oommen being welcomed by party workers in Thiruvananthapuram. PTI

The NDA candidate was second in six constituencies this time, and made huge leaps in votes polled in some Christian-dominated areas.

For example, Kerala BJP general secretary Anoop Antony was the runner-up at Thiruvalla in Pathanamthitta, having almost doubled the votes he polled from last time.

Meanwhile, BJP vice-president Shone George secured more than three times the votes that the BJP candidate from the Pala seat did in 2021.

Chandrasekhar said that the controversies over the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act amendment hit the party's prospects in Christian-dominated areas.

The strong Muslim vote consolidation against the BJP was quite evident at Manjeshwar in Kasaragod, where former Kerala BJP president K Surendran lost by just 89 votes in 2016 and by 29,252 votes this time, albeit being the runner-up. This, despite the BJP's votes increasing from 65,013 in 2021 to 67,696 in the seat.

The votes that the winner, Indian Union Muslim League candidate A K M Ashraf, got went up steeply from 65,858 in 2021 to 96,948 this time, while that of the CPM dropped from 40,639 in 2021 to 21,212.

### AICC observers reach Kerala

**With AICC observers scheduled to hold meetings with elected Congress MLAs in Kerala on Thursday to decide the next CM, V D Satheesan's camp is hopeful of gaining the support of more members in view of his rising popularity. Observer Mukul Wasnik and Ajay Maken reached Kerala by Wednesday evening.**

# Suvendu's personal assistant shot dead

KOLKATA, DHNS/PTI

A close aide of West Bengal BJP heavyweight Suvendu Adhikari was shot dead by unidentified assailants on the outskirts of Kolkata on Wednesday night.

The incident took place at Doharia in Madhyamgram in the North 24 Parganas district when Adhikari's executive assistant Chandranath Rath was returning to his flat from Kolkata in a car, sources said.

Newly elected BJP legislator Tarunjyoti Tewari said that the Trinamool Congress was responsible for the murder. "We have been preaching peace, but the TMC has made its biggest blunder," he said.

Two assailants who came on a bike waylaid Rath's car and opened fire at close range before fleeing the scene. Rath suffered serious injuries. He was rushed to a nearby private hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Rath's driver also sustained bullet injuries and was shifted to a Kolkata hospital, where his condition was stated to be critical.

News of the killing spread quickly, prompting BJP workers and supporters to gather outside the medical facility and vent their anger. Senior BJP leaders rushed to the spot, while Adhikari also visited the area later in the night.

Security beefed up after Suvendu Adhikari's PA Chandranath Rath was shot dead by unidentified assailants in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas on Wednesday night. PTI

In a statement to a vernacular news channel, BJP MLA-elect Kaustav Bagchi said, "This was a targeted attack. The assailants followed Rath's car for a long time before pumping him with bullets. This is the handiwork of Mamata and Abhishek Banerjee. We will not rest until the criminals are identified. We will not cremate the body till then."

A large police contingent was deployed in the area as tension mounted. Efforts were underway to identify the assailants.

Meanwhile, TMC said "We strongly condemn the brutal murder of Chandranath Rath in Madhyamgram tonight, along with the killing of three other TMC workers in incidents of post-poll violence allegedly carried out by BJP-backed miscreants over the last three days, despite the MCC being in force."

The incident took place even as sporadic incidents of post-poll violence were reported from different places across the state.

Rath was involved in organising Suvendu's campaign in Bhabanipur, where the BJP leader had defeated Mamata in the just-concluded elections.

## Himanta to take oath as Assam CM for 2nd term after May 11

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Himanta Biswa Sarma

Himanta Biswa Sarma will take the oath as the Assam chief minister — for his second straight term — after May 11, Assam BJP president Dilip Saikia announced on Wednesday during a meeting with leaders of its regional ally, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP).

"The NDA government will be formed for the third term with Himanta Biswa Sarma as the chief minister, given his strong leadership and government," said Saikia in Guwahati.

The announcement came after Sarma met Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and tendered his Council of Ministers' resignation. Acharya dissolved the 15th Assam Assembly and requested Sarma to act as the caretaker CM till a new Council of Ministers was sworn in.

Sarma (57), who became the CM for the first time in 2021, told reporters that the oath-taking ceremony was likely to take place after May 11. He said the BJP had requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the swearing-in ceremony and received indications that he could visit Assam only after May 11.

### Speculations over

Saikia's announcement ended speculations over the possibility of a change of the CM, as the BJP had done after the Assembly polls victory in 2021.

The party won the 2021 elections under Sarbananda Sonowal as the CM—its second consecutive win—but he was replaced by Sarma after the results.

The BJP and its allies registered their best performance with 102 seats in a 126-member Assembly.

The BJP alone bagged 82 seats, 22 more than its tally in 2021. Two of its regional allies—the AGP and the Bodoland People's Front—won 10 seats each.

**STUNNING DEBUT**

# TVK's dream run: The five men behind Vijay's rise

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) scripted a historic win in the April 23 Assembly elections, winning 108 of the 234 seats in its debut outing. This was nothing short of a miracle, as the party was formally launched only on October 27, 2024, and rode to power in less than two years.

TVK chief C Joseph Vijay has been eyeing a political entry for the past decade. He tested the waters in 2022 by asking members of his fans' association, Vijay Makkal Iyakkam (VMI), to contest local body elections as Independents. Since then, he has been working towards his political plunge.

Here are five key players who advised Vijay and shaped his political future:

### Jhon Arokiasamy

Jhon joined Vijay's team as his political strategist in 2023. Since then, he has played an integral role in building the TVK from scratch and drafting its strategies. It was Jhon who advised Vijay to align with both dominant ideologies in Tamil Nadu, Dravidian politics and Tamil nationalism, and he continues to draft his speeches.

Jhon is believed to have told Vijay from day one that the cult around him could help him become Chief Minister in his debut election. He also stood firm that TVK should contest alone and not ally with any party, especially the BJP.

### 'Bussy' N Anand

Anand has been Vijay's closest aide for the past 15 years. A former Congress MLA from the Bussy constituency in Puducherry (2006–2011), he is an ardent Vijay loyalist and headed the Vijay Makkal Iyakkam, TVK's precursor. Known for his grassroots connect, Anand is familiar with almost every VMI functionary and calls many by name. He transformed the VMI into TVK and played a key role in candidate selection. Widely seen as the No. 2 in the party, Anand continues to enjoy Vijay's trust.

### KG Arunraj

Arunraj took voluntary retirement as an IRS officer in 2025 to join TVK. He was immediately appointed general secretary (propaganda) and became part of the key decision-making team.

He also chaired the party's manifesto committee and remains a close aide of Vijay.

When the party faced its biggest crisis following the Karur stampede, Vijay entrusted Arunraj with meeting the victims' families and conveying his message. He is likely to be allotted a key ministry in the TVK government.

### Aadhav Arjuna

The son-in-law of lottery baron Santiago Martin, Aadhav Arjuna joined TVK in February 2025 after being expelled from the VCK, a prominent Dalit party. Highly ambitious, he emerged as one of Vijay's key political strategists alongside Arokiasamy, especially in the run-up to the elections.

Aadhav played a crucial role in Vijay's victory from the Perambur constituency. He also emerged as a key critic of the DMK within the party.

### KA Sengottaiyan

Sengottaiyan joined TVK in November 2025 after being expelled from the AIADMK, ending a 52-year association. Recognising his political and administrative experience, Vijay tasked him with refining the party's media communication.

An old AIADMK hand, Sengottaiyan brought experience and organisational strength to TVK, helping the party conduct public meetings and events smoothly. His organisational skills also helped the party course-correct after the Karur stampede.

# 'Whistle podu': Gen Z tips the poll scale

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Even as Gen Z made its presence felt across states this poll season, in Tamil Nadu, they emerged as a prime driver of the results. With actor Vijay's stunning entry into the land of Dravidian politics, the state's election marks perhaps the first time Gen Z voters have successfully expressed themselves politically.

The entrenched Dravidian giants DMK and AIADMK ran tight campaigns and had work to show, but Vijay appealed directly to two key constituencies — women and Gen Z voters. At several rallies, he reached out to them, especially the younger electorate. On April 23, he made a pointed appeal to 'whistle podu' (blow the whistle), "Gen Z, vote for the whistle symbol. Give me a chance. It must be a whistle revolution."

Political consultant and P-Marg founder Abbin Theepura, who has worked with the DMK in campaigns, said it was evident that many wanted Vijay in the Opposition as a force in Tamil politics, but Gen Z voters decisively put their weight behind them. "It was a wave — an astrologer won in one seat, and in another, an autodriver polled a lakh votes. This was an election where Gen Z rallied behind a leader, and they succeeded in electing him," he said.

**CALLING THE TUNE**

- Actor Vijay rides youth and women's support
- 1.22 crore Gen Z voters; 14.59 lakh first-timers in TN
- Social media amplifies Gen Z's political voice
- First time Gen Z decisively wins in India, after Nepal

The numbers underline the trend — in these elections, TN had over 1.22 crore voters aged 18-29, accounting for 21.2% of the electorate. Of these, 14.59 lakh were first-time voters.

Across social media platforms, the rise of Gen Z voters in political discourse is apparent. They want to play decisive roles in polls and in the representation of the leaders they choose, says Bengaluru-based Srivatsa YB, who works with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

"Gen Z wants more accountability and is more vocal; their issues are different — they are affected by AI, and they are involved in social causes. And if they don't like a political player, they will mock and troll," Srivatsa said.

As the generation is more vocal and angsty, their anti-establishment ethic could help the Opposition. "If 2014 was the election fought on social media, and 2024, an election fought on video, then 2029 will centre around Gen Z and Gen Alpha voters, as well as AI," Srivatsa adds.

In several states, Gen Z was a voice that could not be ignored. In Bengal, there were 1.37 lakh voters aged 18 to 29, with 5.23 lakh first-time voters. In Assam, those aged 18 to 39 years were 1.28 crore.

## As summer intensifies, we look at how collective efforts across the state are sustaining all forms of life through the harshest season

# Water for the winged and the wild

NAINA J A

For the past three summers, Kannika is greeted by an unusual yet delightful sight in the backyard of her house in Dakshina Kannada's Bantwal—majestic peacocks and other birds stopping by to quench their thirst and peck at grains.

The initiative, she says, is inspired by her school. "Our school encouraged us to set up eco-friendly bird feeders outside our homes during summers," says Kannika, who completed her SSLC at Carmel High School, Modankap in Bantwal.

Under the guidance of their school's science teacher and Eco Club mentor Roshan Pinto, the school has, for the past six years, been actively promoting the installation of eco-friendly water units and feeders at school and at students' homes as part of its 'Chinv Chinv' initiative. This year alone, 136 students from Class 8th to 10th prepared 345 feeders using naturally available coconut shells and husks, placing them in shaded areas across the campus and in their homes.

To encourage students' interest in setting up feeders, they conducted a photography contest as part of which students captured images of birds drinking water from the feeders. Winners were given earthen pots.

"We encourage students to prepare the bird feeders using eco-friendly materials instead of plastic containers to keep them grounded to nature. Even students are excited to engage in group activities of preparing the feeders and hanging them on the trees and ensuring availability of water in it during school hours," says Pinto.

Kannika's efforts have also inspired her family. "Motivated by what I started, my father has placed a similar feeder at his shop in Bantwal," she says. At home, she has set up two water feeders and regularly scatters grains on the ground so birds can feed without fear.

Her backyard has now become a small haven for birds. "A pair of red-whiskered bulbul has even built a nest near the clothesline this year. I feel thrilled watching them," she adds.

During summer vacations, Pinto continues to visit the school twice a week to refill the feeders. His home in Bantwal, too, has become a hotspot for birds and occasionally even snakes. "Around 12 to 13 peacocks visit my house daily to drink water and feed on the bajra I scatter," he says.

Appreciating the effort, headmistress Sister Veera said involving students in providing water for birds helps nurture humanitarian values and a sense of social responsibility. Schools and parents should encourage children to participate in such initiatives.

Students at Carmel High School refill the eco-friendly bird feeders set up by them in their school at Modankap in Dakshina Kannada's Bantwal.

### Feeding through forest troughs

While students are helping birds in urban and semi-urban spaces, a group of environmentalists and enthusiasts from Mangaluru is addressing a larger crisis unfolding in nearby forests—water scarcity for wildlife. The National Environment Care Federation (NECF), a collective of eco-conscious citizens hailing from diverse professions and age groups, has been working to support wildlife during peak summer by constructing water troughs along forest fringes.

"We noticed that as water sources inside forests dry up, animals begin venturing into nearby villages and farmlands in search of water. To address this, the group began building concrete water troughs in strategic locations on village outskirts close to the forests. The idea was first implemented in 2020 at Amparu near Siddapur in Udupi district," says Shashidhar Shetty, secretary of NECF.

Slowly paw and hoof marks began forming varied patterns on the ground around these water points hinting at the many lives that sustained. As more animals began consuming the water, NECF began installing more such troughs and until now, they have installed eight such troughs in Ottinene Gudda, Thondhle, Maddodi, Saminakodlu and other places. "At Saminakodlu, a pipeline from my house feeds water into the trough," he says.

Each trough about five feet wide and 16 inches deep, is replenished using water tankers once every 15 days.

Volunteers of National Environment Care Federation replenish a water trough constructed to quench the thirst of wild animals at Thondle in Udupi.

One tanker can fill five such units and the volunteers monitor the entire process. Each large trough costs around Rs 20,000, while smaller ones can be built for Rs 7,000–Rs 8,000. Initially, NECF members bore the costs of construction and maintenance. Now, they are planning to collaborate with local organisations to ensure better monitoring and sustainability.

The locations for the troughs are selected based on wildlife movement patterns, with areas frequented by deer, wild boar, leopards, foxes, peacocks and rabbits given priority. Over time, these troughs have also become vibrant micro-habitats. Birds gather for a dip during the day, while cattle quench their thirst before heading home after grazing. Now, NECF plans to install cameras to document wildlife activity near these water points and aims to build 10 more troughs.

The members are also concerned about illegal extraction of water from forest streams and springs, which according to them is causing water shortage in forests. They have urged Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre to check such practices.

# The green guardian of Karighatta Hill

T R SATHISH KUMAR

Y Ramesh, a 52-year-old goods auto owner-driver, has spent the past 14 years transforming Karighatta Hill in Mandya district into a greener landscape. He transports drinking water cans for a living but dedicates his time to planting and nurturing saplings on the hill. He has also hung terracotta bowls on trees, regularly filling them with water to help birds quench their thirst.

Over the years, Ramesh has planted over 3,500 saplings on Karighatta Hill, its surroundings, and nearby temples, roadsides, burial grounds and schools. Of these, around 2,000 saplings have grown strong enough to survive on their own, while the remaining 1,500 require care. With temperatures soaring this year, Ramesh is worried about the survival of saplings planted in recent years. "Some philanthropists have sponsored 15 tankers of water over the past month. One tanker of 4,500 litres is sufficient for about 100 saplings," he explained.

A native of Chandagalu village, Ramesh moved to Srirangapatna town 15 years ago to start water-can transport business. A year later, he began planting saplings, a mission he has continued ever since. Initially, his work was self-funded but gradually gained support from philanthropists and volunteers who contributed financially and through voluntary work.

Explaining his initiative, Ramesh said, "Karighatta derives its name from an age-old practice where devotees would set fire to plants and trees atop the hill during an *utsava* in February or March, to fulfil their vows. The origin of this practice is unclear. The temple did not endorse it and the Forest Department took action several times but people often found ways around it. This pained me and I decided to stop it."

Ramesh began conducting awareness programmes, delivering lectures in schools, and staging street plays in the area with the help of volunteers. Together, they began planting various saplings while dispersing seed balls. Over time, these efforts helped bring the destructive practice to a halt. Today, NSS volunteers support his work by planting and nurturing trees throughout the year. "Ramesh's work impressed me during my visit to Karighatta in 2017. I later ensured he got assistance from NSS volunteers," said Prasanna Kumar Keragodu, Assistant Professor at a Mandya college.

Students from Srinivasa Agrahara village at the foothills have formed a group called Hasiru Sainya with around 10 members joining Ramesh every Sunday. Javarappa, a leader from Srinivasa Agrahara, said due to Ramesh's efforts, burning vegetation on the hill has stopped over the past two years.

Ramesh also thanked Forest Department officials for supporting his plantation activities on Karighatta Hill. Shylaja, Srirangapatna Range Forest Officer, appreciated Ramesh for introducing children to the concept of forest, environment and conservation. "He is helpful to the Forest department in various initiatives," she added.

Y Ramesh carries water to quench the thirst of plants on Karighatta Hill in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district.

# A simple act of kindness through Aravatiges

DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI

Under the summer sun in Vijayapura's Sindagi town, where temperatures recently touched 39°C, access to a glass of drinking water can make a difference. For Chandrashekhar Tavarageri, a daily-wage labourer on his way to the government hospital to attend to his ailing father, relief came in time. With little money to spare and the heat building, he stopped at an Aravatige, a temporary water kiosk that offers free drinking water.

Aravatiges are a familiar sight across parts of Karnataka during the summer months. Set up as a community service by individuals and not-for-profit organisations, these kiosks provide clean, often cooled drinking water to passersby. "Aravatige is derived from two words — *aravattu* and *ige*. *Aravattu* traditionally refers to a hut where passersby are offered water, buttermilk or other non-alcoholic drinks, while *ige* refers to the place where these are kept. They were also known as Ambali Aravattige or Tanniru Chatra," explains Veeranna Rajur, a writer and researcher.

In towns like Sindagi, Aravatiges are usually set up near busy public spaces such as hospitals, bus stands and markets, where demand is constant.

One such initiative in Sindagi is led by the Akhila Bharat Manaveeyate Sandesha Vedike. The group has installed four Aravatiges across the town this season. Each day, about 25 cans of drinking water are distributed through these kiosks.

According to Maulana Dawood Nadvi, president of the Vijayapura unit of the Vedike, the initiative has been running for about a decade. "We usually operate from March to May, when the heat is at its peak," he says. The water is sourced from local drinking water plants, while costs are covered through donations from philanthropists. Each kiosk is managed by an attendant, who is also paid from these pooled funds.

In a similar effort in Hosapete, Umapathi Kasatti, president of the association of pure drinking water units in the town, has been providing free drinking water in public places for over 25 years through the Karnataka Nagarika Hitharakshana Seva Trust.

This year, the Trust has set up Aravatiges near the town's APMC yard, a mosque, and other busy locations, where an estimated 500 to 600 people stop by each day. "We usually store water in earthen pots and cooling boxes," he says. Beyond summer, the initiative extends to public events such as the Hampi Utsav, when demand for drinking water rises. While Kasatti supplies water from his plant for free, local shopkeepers and volunteers often help manage kiosks set up near their establishments.

In Kalaburagi, the initiative takes a more individual form. B Renukacharya, a 48-year-old teacher-turned-social leader, has set up an Aravatige at Thimmapur Circle under the banner of B Renukacharya Geleyara Balaga. He began offering free drinking water nearly a decade ago and continues to meet the expenses from his own pocket. "Beyond providing water, Aravatige promotes communal harmony and shared access, where people from different communities come together and drink without distinction," Renukacharya adds.

Renukacharya also uses the space to speak about avoiding water wastage, linking the service to a broader message of conservation.

In the pilgrim centre of Huligi in Koppal district, businessman Anil Eligar sets up multiple Aravatiges around the temple and nearby areas during the month-long fair held in May. "I started this nearly 15 years ago. At the time, many people mocked the idea. Today, banks and other institutions also set up water kiosks during the fair," he says.

An Aravatige set up at Sindagi town in Vijayapura district.

### Traditional practice

While water at Aravatiges is now commonly stored in earthen pots or coolers in small makeshift kiosks, the practice has a long history in Karnataka where water was either stored in small sheds or special structures.

"Aravatige finds mention in a Badami Chalukyan inscription dated to the seventh century. It reads: '*Daariya badiyalli aravattige madisidavange swargaloka*', suggesting that those who provide water to the thirsty attain heaven. A Hoysala inscription from 1220 AD refers to a donation of land to set up an Aravatige. Even during the Vijayanagara period, such kiosks were common during fairs," explains Rajur.

References to Aravatiges also appear in Kannada literary works such as *Pampa Bharatha* by Pampa, *Gadayuddha* by Ranna, the Ragales of Harihara, and the Vachanas of Basavanna, Akkamahadevi, Allamaprabhu and Chennabasavanna.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

# Beyond the ruins: The forgotten capitals of the Deccan

**Leah Verghese explores three lesser-known towns, each steeped in compelling history yet far from the usual tourist trail**

A couple of months ago, I visited Hemavathi, just across the Karnataka border in Andhra Pradesh, once the capital of the Nolamba dynasty. By the time I arrived, the midday sun was harsh. I stood before a temple complex with a neat yard dotted with *Shivalingas* and *Nandis*. A small stream of devotees was entering the temple, but there was not another tourist in sight. Hemavathi is not alone; other lesser-known capitals near Bengaluru, such as Manne and Penukonda, also share this obscurity.

### Hemavathi

The Nolambas ruled parts of present-day Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu between the 8th and 11th centuries. The main draw in Hemavathi is a large temple complex featuring the Siddeswara and Doddeswara temples, along with a modest Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) museum. The yard outside the temple complex has several *Shivalingas* and *Nandis*. In his book *Temple Architecture and Sculpture of the Nolambas: Ninth-Tenth Centuries, art historian Andrew Cohen mentions* about the inscriptions describing Pasupata Saivas (a sect of Shaiva tradition) in Henjeru (the old name for Hemavathi), who were patronised by the Nolamba kings. So the profusion of *lingas* isn't accidental.

What sets the Siddeswara temple apart is the presence of an idol of Bhairava in the sanctum, instead of the Shivalinga found in most Shiva temples. The idol is swathed in cloth and flowers, obscuring the details of the sculpture.

Within the complex stands the Doddeswara temple, built largely in granite.

A column at the Siddeswara temple in Hemavathi, once the capital of the Nolamba dynasty. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

On the exterior wall are delicately carved, perforated windows in a softer schist. One such window shows Goddess Ganga on her vehicle, *makara*. Another depicts a couple, possibly the donor Marayya and his wife.

The ASI Museum houses many of the sculptures that were previously found around the site. Information is limited, but the exhibits include some fine ceiling panels. One such panel depicts Shiva at the centre, surrounded by the Saptamatrikas and Ganesha. There are also figures of goddesses, some fragmentary, including one with flaming hair, a fierce expression and a string of skulls.

### Manyapura

Around 40 km from Bengaluru, in Nelamangala taluk, lies Manyapura or Manne, once the capital of the Western Ganga dynasty. Long before the Hoysalas and the Chalukyas dominated the Deccan, the Western Gangas ruled parts of present-day Karnataka and Tamil Nadu between the 4th and 11th centuries. They shifted their capital to Manyapura in the 8th century from Kolar during the reign of Sripurusha, marking his victory over the Pallavas of Kanchipuram.

On entering Manne, it appears like any other town. A signboard in Kannada marks it as a capital of the Ganga dynasty. There are no ticket counters, guided tours, or souvenir shops here: only a handful of surviving religious structures.

The Kapileshwara temple, dedicated to Shiva, now in ruins, is said to have been built by Shri Vijaya, the general of the Ganga king Maarasimha. The entrance is guarded by a pair of Dwarapalakas, while the sides feature perforated windows with carvings of amorous couples and other figures. It also has a broken sculpture of Nandi inside.

Tightly packed between houses and a water tank is a ruined Jain temple. The temple's high ceiling suggests it may have had two levels. Today, a sculpture of the Yaksha Dharanendra remains on the ceiling. Near a dried-up lake stand sculptures of the Saptamatrikas, which are still worshipped.

The Kapileshwara Temple at Manne.

### Penukonda

Penukonda represents a later phase of history. After the Battle of Talikota in 1565, when the Vijayanagara army was defeated, the capital was abandoned and the royal family fled to Penukonda in present-day Andhra Pradesh. It served as the empire's capital for close to three decades.

Gagan Mahal is the principal monument here. Built between the 15th and 16th centuries, it has two levels, with arched openings to the east and a tower to the north. Its stucco-coated walls and high ceilings keep the interior relatively cool in summer. Legend also links the site to a court dancer named Gangamma. The tower has projecting *jharokas* overlooking the nearby temples. The Ramaswamy temple features reliefs from the Ramayana and Krishna legends, while a nearby stepwell is adorned with animal carvings. The Vishwanatha temple houses a *Narmada linga*, while images of Minanatha, one of the gurus of the Natha Sampradaya, figures on its outer walls.

Gagan Mahal in Penukonda.

Penukonda, today, has another unexpected attraction: Korean restaurants, thanks to an automobile factory with a community of Korean engineers. The combination of Vijayanagara-era temples and Korean 'Bibimbap' seems jarring, but perhaps Penukonda has always been a place of reinvention.

Hemavathi, Manne and Penukonda lie off the main tourist circuit, yet reflect the diverse architectural landscape of the Deccan. While the crowds gather at Hampi, the more compelling questions lie here.

## Pavandeep stars in BSC victory

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Pavandeep R Bharadakane's quickfire ton propelled Bangalore Sports Club to a massive 252-run win over Cambridge Cricket Club in the KSCA Under-16 Inter-Club cricket tournament here.

LOCAL CRICKET

**Brief scores:** Bangalore SC: 356 all out in 49 overs (Viaan Joshi 33, Tanshh Krishna M 27, Ishaan Bohra 29, Vineet Pravin Patil 56, Pavandeep R Bharadakane 128, Saurjyesh Das 25, Vikram 35 n.o.; Yashkumar Nishad 3-51, Viren Seervi 3-36, Jash Karia 3-70) bt Cambridge CC: 104 all out in 36.1 overs (Jash Karia 50; Krishna 4-24, Vikram 2-30, Saurjyesh Das 2-4).
National Cricketers: 225/9 in 50 overs (Joshua Immanuel Batchu 104, Gaurav Raj H 33; Syed Ayyan Fareez 4-33, Harshith Mettimi 2-41, Syed Muhammad Syed Hussaini 2-55) lt to Jayanagar Cricketers: 226/5 in 45.1 overs (Pranjal Kumar 88, Namish Kar 54 n.o., Sujoy Das 39 n.o.; Surya Sendhil 2-48).
YMCA CC (3): 227 all out in 42.2 overs (Karthick Veeran 70, Sami Kadakol 27, Adithya GD 55, Vidit Mishra 3-13) bt Wilson Garden CC: 226/9 in 50 overs (Lohithaksha R 25, M Siddharth Karumbaiah 43, Tarun Gautham 70; Manav J Jain 3-46, Ishan Jay Rao 2-31).
City Gymkhana: 210/7 in 49 overs (Arnav N Manchale 43, Sachith Shetty 60 n.o.; Mahesh Kantharaj 2-40, Zak Anthony 2-39, Arnav Rajiv VP 2-30) bt Jawans CC: 169/9 in 49 overs (Shaurya Yadav 45; Nandheeshwara HS 4-25, Arnav N Manchale 2-22).
Palar SC, Kolar: 88 all out in 27.3 overs (Chayaank Pradeep 30; A Mithun Rao 2-11, Sangeeta Rao Sashang 2-26, Yuvraj NG 3-11) lt to Sapphire CC: 89/3 in 26.5 overs (Sangeeta RS 31, Mokshith Bakkamanthula 33 n.o.; Amogh Srinivas 2-37).
Sir Syed Cricketers: 249 all out in 49.3 overs (Purab Soni 85, Aarith Gowda TN 25, Dev J Patel 37; C Kusal Jinani 4-39) bt Sangam CA: 247/9 in 50 overs (BY Sidarth 39, Gautham V 89, Vivek B 36; Purab Soni 2-44).
Freelancers CC: 177 all out in 39.5 overs (M Kalyan Tejas 44, Rishab Hiremath 30; R Uday 2-17, Bhuvan S Gowda 3-25, Saket Chandramouli 4-30) lt to Whirlwind Cricketers: 178/3 in 36 overs (Rithesh MT 66, Shubhan Hiremath 45 n.o.).
Friends Union CC (2): 224 all out in 38.2 overs (Neev Jain 31, Dishant Anilkumar 69, Vyom Krish Vijay 48; Anuj V Onkar 2-41, Pruthu Avinash Aathreya 4-46, Tejas Mukund 2-26) bt Bangalore Occasionals: 182 all out in 44.1 overs (Parupalli S Siddhan 50, Anuj V Onkar 34; Swarith Girigowda 3-30, Jakkula Pavan Kumar 2-20, Vyom Krish Vijay 2-20).
Jawahar SC (1): 208 all out in 49.2 overs (Amey 25, Mayank Sharma 56, Cheran Tej Raju C 38; James Patel 2-22, Chirayu Vishesh 2-40, Viswajeet Prashant Jadhav 5-34) lt to RV Engineering College: 209/5 in 41.5 overs (Narayan Singh Dadhwal 29, Aarush P Puthran 60, Avaneesha SN 58, P Lithik Reddy 34 n.o.).
Jawahar SC (2): 95 all out in 30.3 overs (Arnav Ravindra Dere 2-14, Kushal KA 5-20) lt to Rajajinagar Cricketers: 96/1 in 10.1 overs (Niranjan Ashok 43 n.o., Dhathvik 36 n.o.).
Jupiter CA: 164 all out in 38.4 overs (Nikhil Sangam 32, Manan Narain 44; Vishrut Mehrotra 2-26, Thanav Abhishek 2-28, S Miteesh 3-24) lt to Hammonds CC: 165/3 in 20.1 overs (Aryaman Goel 32, Lalithesh R 47 n.o., Preetham HG 52 n.o.; Sai Teja Atti 2-24).

### ◆ ON TV ◆

**CRICKET**

**IPL:** Lucknow Super Giants vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

**FOOTBALL**

**Europa League (semifinal leg 2):** Freiburg vs Braga, Aston Villa vs Nottingham Forest **(12:30 am, Friday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

**TENNIS**

**ATP Masters:** Rome Masters round of 64 **(5:30 pm). LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# Arsenal scratch 20-year itch

## 'Starboy' Saka shines bright as Gunners beat Atletico to storm into final

LONDON, AFP

Arsenal reached the Champions League final for the first time in 20 years as Bukayo Saka sealed a 1-0 win against Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

Mikel Arteta's side settled the semifinal second leg with Saka's strike late in the first half at an ecstatic Emirates Stadium.

The Gunners, who drew 1-1 in the first leg in Madrid last week, held firm after Saka's goal to go through 2-1 on aggregate.

Arsenal will face Paris Saint-Germain or Bayern Munich in the final in Budapest on May 30.

Holders PSG, who beat Arsenal in the semifinals last year, have a 5-4 lead ahead of the second leg in Munich on Wednesday.

It was a cathartic night for Arsenal, who are back in the Champions League final for the first time since losing 2-1 to Barcelona in their only previous appearance in the showpiece in 2006.

Arsenal have never won the Champions League, with their two major European trophies coming in the 1994 Cup Winners' Cup and the 1970 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup. Their last continental final ended in a 4-1 defeat against Chelsea in the 2019 Europa League.

It is shaping up to be Arsenal's greatest ever season as they chase a Premier League and Champions League double. Even Arsene Wenger's 'Invincibles' — who won the club's last English title in an unbeaten top-flight campaign in 2004—might have to bow to the current generation if they finish the job.

Fittingly, it was Saka — the homegrown symbol of the Arteta era—who proved Arsenal's match-winner.

Now just four games from immortality, Premier League leaders Arsenal were given a huge boost in the title race when second-placed Manchester City drew at Everton on Monday.

The Gunners will be crowned champions if they win their last three games against West Ham, Burnley and Crystal Palace.

Once the title is decided, Arsenal will head to Hungary with a maiden Champions League crown in their sights.

Arsenal endured jibes about their perceived lack of mental strength after a run of four defeats in six games in all competitions sparked painful memories of previous failures to end their six-year wait for silverware.

But the 'nearly-men' and 'serial choker' labels applied only weeks ago are on the verge of being banished forever.

Thousands of Arsenal supporters massed outside the stadium before kick-off to greet their team with flares and flags, a vociferous display of affection underlining Arsenal's desperation to make history.

It was the kind of evening in north London, when nothing was beyond the realm of possibility as Arsenal moved closer to casting off the shackles of two decades of underachievement.

After some tense performances during the Premier League run-in, Saturday's 3-0 rout of Fulham had showed Arsenal at their flowing best in a riposte to the critics who claim they only win ugly.

This was a more prosaic display but no-one with an affinity to Arsenal was bothered in the slightest.

Arsenal were nearly caught on the counter in a frenetic start when Julian Alvarez shot just wide before Giuliano Simeone's close-range effort deflected past the post.

But Arsenal recovered from those anxious moments to deliver a dominant spell that brought their 44th-minute goal.

**Result:** Arsenal: 1 (Buyako Saka 44th) bt Atletico Madrid: 0 on aggregate 2-1.

Arsenal's Buyako Saka (second from left) scores the winning goal against Atletico Madrid in London on Tuesday. AFP

# Ban on bilateral sports with Pak to continue: Ministry

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Sports Ministry on Wednesday said the blanket ban on bilateral sporting ties with Pakistan that was imposed last year will remain in force but athletes from across the border will not be stopped from coming here for multi-lateral events.

The ministry also reiterated its commitment to simplify the visa process for sportspersons, team officials, technical personnel, and office-bearers of International Sports Governing Bodies to position India as a "preferred sporting destination".

"In so far as bilateral sports events in each other's country are concerned, Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India," the ministry stated in a circular issued to all National Sports Federations (NSFs), the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) among others.

"With regard to international and multilateral events, in India or abroad, we are guided by the practices of international sports bodies and the interest of our own sportspersons.

"Accordingly, Indian teams and individual players will take part in international events that also have teams or players from Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistani players and teams will be able to participate in such multilateral events hosted by India," it added.

The policy was first announced last year in August after an uproar over India's participation in cricket's Asia Cup in the UAE that also featured Pakistan, within months of the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

# Laxmisiri, Vaidehee progress into last 16

BENGALURU, DHNS

Indian players made a strong impact in the ITF W15 Tumakuru Open in the women's singles Round of 32 even as eighth seed Akanksha Dileep Nitture suffered a surprising early exit at the Tumakuru University Tennis Stadium here on Wednesday.

In an all-Indian clash that set the tone for the day, Laxmisiri Dandu staged a remarkable comeback to overcome Prathyusha Rachapudi 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Among the seeded Indians, third seed Vaidehee Chaudhari lived up to expectations with a composed 6-3, 6-4 win over local lass Soha Sadiq, while fourth seed Zeel Desai delivered the most dominant performance of the day, steam-rolling Jeetesh Kumari 6-0, 6-0.

However, the biggest talking point was the early exit of eighth seed Akanksha Dileep Nitture, who was outplayed by Arina Arifullina in a one-sided 6-1, 6-1 defeat.

**Results:** Singles (Indians unless mentioned, prefix denotes seedings): Round of 32: Laxmisiri Dandu bt Prathyusha Rachapudi 1-6, 7-5, 6-3; Kashish Bhatia bt Amodini Naik 6-1, 6-1; 1-Justina Mikulskyte (Ltu) bt Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-1; Jennifer Luikham bt Chevika Reddy Sama 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; 3-Vaidehee Chaudhari bt Soha Sadiq 6-3, 6-4; 2-Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol) bt Sreemanya Reddy 6-0, 6-1; 6-Ekaterina Yashina (Rus) bt Bela Tamhankar 6-2, 6-2; Arina Arifullina (Rus) bt 8-Akanksha Nitture 6-1, 6-1; Zuzanna Kolonus (Pol) bt Aishwarya Jadhav 6-2, 6-0; 4-Zeel Desai bt Jeetesh Kumari 6-0, 6-0;

Lithuania's top seed Justina Mikulskyte beat Saumya Vig at the ITF W15 Tumakuru Open on Wednesday.

# Gukesh sends out a warning

**WARSAW (POLAND), PTI:** Reigning world champion D Gukesh **(in pic)** on Wednesday sent out a massive message to the chess buffs across the globe by beating his challenger for the world crown, Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan, in the fifth round of the Super Rapid and Blitz, a part of the Grand Chess Tour, here.

Gukesh had earlier walked out of the main competition of the Grand Chess Tour, citing his form and to focus more on training ahead of his World Championship title defence.

Gukesh was, however, in full swing as he matched Sindarov move for move in a rapid encounter that was the first of the clash before the Uzbek meets the Indian ace in the World Championship match scheduled later this year.

Interestingly enough, Gukesh and Sindarov both lost their previous games coming into this round. Gukesh was outdone by Radoslav Wojtashek of Poland, while Sindarov lost to tournament leader Wesley So of the US. Caro Kann defence was the choice of the world champion for this round and Sindarov chose something unconventional in the opening that guaranteed a dynamic position for Gukesh which he is very fond off.

# Compound teams fire blanks

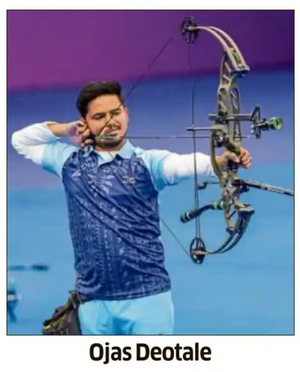
SHANGHAI, PTI

Indian compound men's and women's teams, considered strong medal contenders, endured a disappointing outing in Stage 2 of the Archery World Cup, failing to secure a podium finish after crumbling in crunch situations here on Wednesday.

The biggest setback came from the women's team, who had won India's only gold medal at the season-opening World Cup in Mexico last month.

The trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Pragati and Aditi Swami crashed out in the quarterfinals, losing 227-233 to Turkey.

The Indian trio failed to match the consistency of Hazal Burun, Defne Cakmak and Emine Rabia Oguz, who seized control from the second end and never let go, sealing a comfortable six-point win.



Ojas Deotale

The men's team of Ojas Deotale, Sahil Jadhav, and Kushal Dalal raised hopes by reaching the semifinals but faltered when it mattered the most, returning empty handed after back-to-back defeats under pressure.

In the bronze medal match, India lost to China in a dramatic shoot-off after scores were tied at 234-234.

There was, however, some respite in the individual section, with all Indian compound archers progressing to the round of 32.

While Abhishek Verma, Sahil Jadhav, Kushal Dalal and Ojas Deotale advanced in the men's draw, Madhura, Jyothi, Aditi and Pragati progressed in the women's section.

## IN BRIEF

### Ex State sprinter no more

▸ Former Karnataka sprint champion Guna Shaker Maurie died at the age of 68 following a head injury at his residence in Anjanapura last month, reports DHNS.

He is survived by his wife and son, who are doctors. Karnataka Athletics Association released a statement, recalling his laurels for the state.

Representing BMS College of Engineering, he became 100m and 200m champion at the All India University Engineering meet.

### Delhi to host CW TT

▸ Delhi will host the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship from July 27 to August 2 at the Thyagraj Stadium, with players from more than 35 countries expected to participate, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Wednesday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

### India's campaign ends at World Team Table Tennis

**LONDON, PTI:** India's underwhelming campaign at the World Table Tennis Team Championships ended with women's 1-3 loss to the USA in the round of 32 here.

The men also lost in a round of 32 clash against Austria on Tuesday.

Manika Batra was the only one who made an impact in the rubber, winning her singles against Reyes Jessica 11-2, 11-8, 8-11, 11-4.

In the opening singles, Yashaswini Ghorpade was blanked by Moyland Sally 0-3 (8-11, 8-11, 7-11). Diya Chitale too could not compete against Chinese-origin player Lily Zhang, going down 0-3 (8-11, 7-11, 11-13).

India's fate was decided when Manika lost to Sally 12-10, 9-11, 3-11, 11-13 in her second singles.

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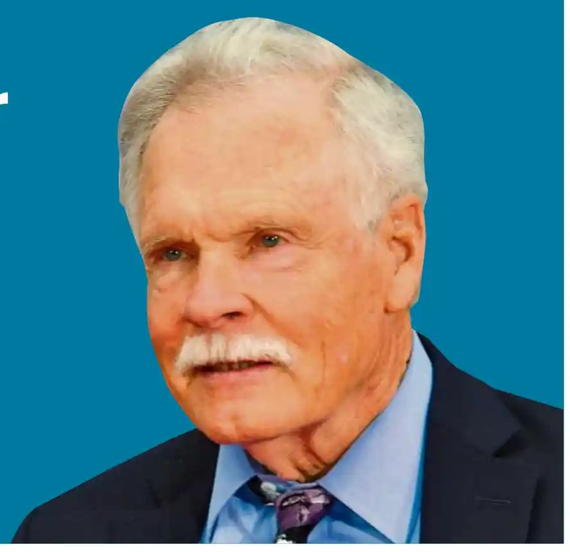
The Power of Good

# Pioneering CNN founder Ted Turner dead at 87

*Page 4*



# Cyber slavery: CBI raids nine locations across 4 states

*Page 2*

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Page 6

# Trump makes new threats as Iran 'doubts' US proposals

**Development amid reports that both sides are closer to a deal to end war**

WASHINGTON/DUBAI, AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump pressed Iran on Wednesday to agree to a peace plan, issuing fresh threats even as an Iranian official dismissed a proposal to end the war as a "list of American wishes".

The conflicting accounts of diplomacy came a day after Trump abruptly paused a US military operation to escort commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz, citing what he said was "great progress" in talks.

"Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is perhaps a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform," using the US name for its campaign against Iran.

"If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before," he added.

Trump's post came after US news outlet *Axios* reported on Wednesday that the US believes it is close to reaching an agreement with Iran.

According to *Axios*, the two sides are close to agreeing on a "one-page memorandum of understanding to end the war and set a framework for more detailed negotiations".

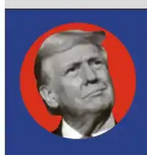
It said the deal would involve Iran committing to a moratorium on nuclear enrichment and the US agreeing to release billions of dollars of frozen Iranian funds.

▸ Iran, Page 3

**West Asia developments**

- French shipping company CMA CGM says one of its vessels was targeted by an attack in the Strait of Hormuz
- Israel's military issues evacuation warning for a dozen villages in south Lebanon ahead of expected strikes
- Germany's Lufthansa warns of rising risks to the firm's financial performance
- France's aircraft carrier strike group moves towards Red Sea in preparation for a potential future mission for Strait of Hormuz

A US ship in the Arabian Sea. AFP



Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is perhaps a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end. If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before.

**Donald Trump,** US President

# MLA ticket quota: BCCI moves IPL final from Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad will host the Indian Premier League final for the fourth time in five years after the BCCI decided to shift the 19th edition's finale from Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Dharamsala will host Qualifier 1, while New Chandigarh, Punjab Kings' home venue, will host the other two playoffs — the Eliminator and Qualifier 2. This is the first time IPL playoffs will be held across three venues, unlike the two in all the preceding seasons, an arrangement BCCI described as a "special case" due to certain "operational and logistical considerations."

**Playoffs Schedule**

| | |
|---|---|
| Qualifier 1: May 26, Dharamshala | Eliminator: May 27, New Chandigarh |
| Qualifier 2: May 29, New Chandigarh | Final: May 31, Ahmedabad |

As per convention, Bengaluru, by virtue of the Royal Challengers being the defending champions, should have got the hosting rights for the final, but indirectly citing the ticket quota for MLAs, the BCCI moved a playoff and the final from the Chinnaswamy.

"Bengaluru was originally designated to host the final. However, owing to certain requirements from the local association and authorities that were beyond the scope of BCCI's established guidelines and protocols, the venue has been shifted," the Board stated in a release.

Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, who mediated with KSCA to ensure allotment of tickets to legislators, dismissed quota as the reason for shifting the final. "The IPL final may have been shifted with the intention of having a bigger stadium in Ahmedabad and attracting more people," he said.

▸ IPL final, Page 3

# Alignment plans out for bullet trains from B'luru to Chennai and Hyderabad

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Three months after the Union Budget announced high-speed rail projects connecting Bengaluru to Hyderabad and Chennai, the Indian Railways has released alignments for both routes.

An approximate alignment of the Bengaluru-Mysuru route, which was excluded from the budget, has also been given.

According to the alignment, the Bengaluru-Chennai line (306 km) will start at Baiyappanahalli, pass through Whitefield, Kodihalli (near Hoskote) and Kolar (5 km from the town) in Karnataka, Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, Parandur and Poonamalle in Tamil Nadu, and terminate at Chennai Central.

The Parandur station in Kanchipuram district, where Tamil Nadu plans to build a second airport for Chennai, was not part of the initial alignment. The line will run for 100.7 km in Karnataka and require 1,358.96 hectares of land.

Within Bengaluru, the corridor will pass through a 15.94-km tunnel while it will have elevated/at-grade tracks in other parts of the state.

The Bengaluru-Hyderabad line (607.03 km) will have stations at Kodihalli, Devanahalli (near the Kempegowda International Airport) and Alipur (Chikkaballapur district) in Karnataka. It will run for 101.03 km in the state and require 237.5 hectares.

The line will have stations at Hindupur, Duddebanda (near Penukonda), Anantapur, Gooty, Dhone, Kurnool, Mannanur (Nagarkurnool), Bharat City (a planned township near Hyderabad) and Hyderabad airport (Shamshabad) before terminating at Hyderabad.

▸ Train, Page 3

**New Mumbai superfast from June-end**

Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Wednesday that Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has assured him that the much-awaited Bengaluru-Mumbai Superfast train will be launched by the end of June. The new train will run via Davanagere, Hubballi-Dharwad and Belagavi.

# Anti-defection panel may moot denying turncoats plum posts

BENGALURU, DHNS

A committee of presiding officers reviewing the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) is likely to recommend denial of voting rights during a no-confidence motion to legislators who defect and also bar them from holding posts as ministers, chairpersons of boards and corporations, or any office of profit in the subsequent government.

U T Khader

Assembly Speaker U T Khader on Wednesday told reporters that the panel meant to strengthen the anti-defection laws, headed by Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar, will hold its final sitting in Karnataka in June before submitting its report to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Appointed in February this year to examine the anti-defection law, the committee, besides Khader, also includes Odisha Speaker Surama Padhy and Nagaland Speaker Sharingain Longkumer.

During the previous meetings held at Mumbai and Puri, the panel discussed many recommendations under consideration including the creation of a separate tribunal to decide which faction is the original party in the event of a split, reducing the burden on Speakers.

▸ Anti-defection, Page 3

**Other likely proposals**

- Denial of voting rights during no-confidence motion to legislators who defect
- Resolving hierarchy between the party whip and the Legislature Party's chief whip
- Creation of separate tribunal to decide which faction is the original party in the event of a split
- A statutory time limit for deciding disqualification petitions against defected members

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# One year after Op Sindoor, J&K sees tighter security, lingering border gaps

## No major, coordinated attack seen; but civilians along LoC continue to be vulnerable

**ZULFIKAR MAJID**
SRINAGAR, DHNS

A year after India's cross-border strikes under Operation Sindoor, Jammu and Kashmir presents a mixed picture—one of a tightened security grid and relative stability in the hinterland but continuing vulnerabilities for civilians along the Line of Control (LoC), especially in border districts such as Poonch, Rajouri and Kupwara.

The strikes, launched during the intervening night of May 6 and 7 last year, followed the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, where 26 civilians were killed after terrorists opened fire on tourists at the Baisaran meadow, marking one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in recent years.

Security officials say the fallout from Operation Sindoor has been a sharper focus on deterrence and prevention within J&K.

Over the past year, the counter-insurgency grid has been reinforced, particularly along infiltration routes. Officials point to enhanced surveillance, increased use of drones and electronic monitoring, and closer coordination among agencies.

"The focus has been on preventing infiltration and disrupting militant networks before they can strike," a senior security official said, adding that there has been no major, coordinated attack on the scale seen in previous years.

However, along the LoC, the legacy of last year's escalation continues to be felt. In Poonch, which saw some of the heaviest cross-border shelling following the strikes, residents say little has changed in terms of civilian protection. 14 civilians were killed during the shelling, many while fleeing as artillery exchanges intensified.

"We still don't have enough bunkers. When shelling starts, people are exposed," said Bashir Khatana, a resident of Mandhar village in Poonch.

The shortage of bunkers has been a recurring issue. In 2018, the Centre had sanctioned funds for over 14,000 bunkers across the Jammu division, including individual and community shelters. But in several villages along the LoC, residents say the number of functional bunkers remains far short of the requirement.

Security analysts say that while Operation Sindoor may have reinforced India's deterrence posture, it has not altered the fundamental dynamics along the LoC. "The strikes were designed to send a message, and they did," a Srinagar-based analyst said. "But the LoC remains a sensitive and active frontier."

# Cyber slavery: CBI raids nine locations across 4 states; 1 held

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** The CBI on Wednesday raided nine locations across four states in its probe into the trafficking of Indian nationals to Southeast Asian countries under the pretext of lucrative overseas jobs and arrested one person from Lucknow, officials said.

According to a statement, investigations revealed that victims were lured with "false promises of high-paying employment" and transported to scam compounds in countries such as Myanmar and Cambodia, where they were forced into cyber fraud operations in conditions described as "cyber slavery".

It added that there were instances of "physical and psychological harassment", and in many cases, victims were compelled to arrange ransom payments from their families for release.

As part of the probe, the CBI conducted coordinated searches in Mumbai, Delhi, Lucknow, Kashipur, and areas in Gonda and Saharanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh, following a nationwide enquiry.

The agency said it carried out "detailed financial analysis, including tracking cryptocurrency transactions" to identify those involved in the trafficking network, and seized electronic devices containing incriminating evidence during the searches.

One person was arrested in Lucknow for his alleged role in facilitating the trafficking operations, it said.

Preliminary findings suggest that agents "receive payments from operators of scam compounds" for supplying Indian nationals, it said.

# SC cancels bail of accused in 2024 Haldwani riots case

**ASHISH TRIPATHI**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday set aside the Uttarakhand High Court's order of granting default bail to two accused in the 2024 Haldwani riots case, and ordered them to surrender before the trial court within two weeks.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta passed the order on a special leave petition filed by the state of Uttarakhand.

Taking exception to the high court order, the bench said: "It is absolutely unreasonable of the high court to have made observations on the investigation and had in fact made factually incorrect statements regarding recording of statements by the investigating agency."

The bench added: "Importantly, without a doubt, the investigation proceeded with utmost expediency in the case, which posed grave challenges to the investigation agency, considering the magnitude of the crime and the large number of accused and witnesses."

The state government assailed the granting of default bail by a division bench of the high court to two prime accused: Javed Siddiqui and Arshad Ayub.

The matter pertained to the February 8, 2024, riots at Banbhoolpura in Haldwani, in which a violent mob allegedly opened fire, threw stones and petrol bombs, burnt police vehicles, and confined women constables in a police station that was set on fire, leading to registration of three separate FIRs under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Sections 15 & 16 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and Sections 3, 4, 7 and 25 of the Arms Act, among other sections of the law.

Upon hearing the parties, the apex court observed that the hich court had gone completely wrong, and noted that the FIR had been filed in relation to an incident of widespread arson, rioting, and damage to public property — including the building of the police station wherein a large number of accused persons were arraigned — with the allegation of using petrol bombs and other arsenal in the incident.

# Nursery rhymes like 'Johny, Johny' teach children to lie: Uttar Pradesh minister

**LUCKNOW, DHNS:** Uttar Pradesh's Minister for Higher Education Yogendra Upadhyaya has triggered a controversy with his views on an English-language nursery rhyme.

At an event attended by the "shiksha mitras" (para-teachers) in Kanpur on Wednesday, he said that the popular nursery rhyme "Johny, Johny! Yes Papa? Eating sugar? No papa" taught children to lie.

Upadhyaya said that such poems, which represented Western culture, did not inculcate any cultural values in children.

"The poems sow the seeds of lies in children," he said at the event.

Stating that there was an urgent need to inculcate cultural values among children, the minister said that old Hindi poems were inspirational and imparted lessons in Indian culture.

He asked educators not to be confined to the syllabus, but to teach students about our culture and ancient values.

The popular nursery rhyme "Johny Johny" narrates the story of a young child who is caught eating sugar by his father.

The rhyme was believed to be documented by American professor and scholar Francella Butler in 1989, but may have originated earlier. It is said to be popular among parents and students.

# MISCELLANY

## ◆ COMICS ◆

### Blondie

OUR TEACHER TOLD US THAT NO TWO SNOWFLAKES ARE EXACTLY ALIKE
WHICH IS WEIRD, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT
HOW SO?
BECAUSE THEY ALL TASTE EXACTLY THE SAME!

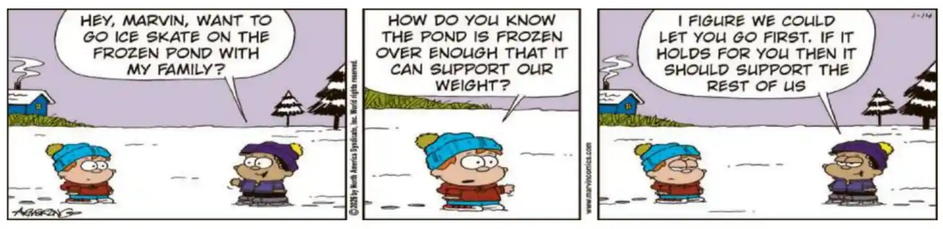
### Hagar The Horrible

### Beetle Bailey

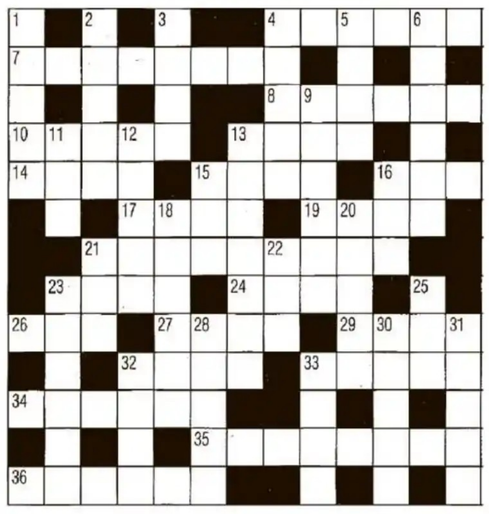
### Peanuts

I HATE TO SHOW ANY INTEREST, BUT IN YOUR BOOK, DOES BEETHOVEN MEET ANY OTHER WOMEN?
OH, YES! IN CHAPTER FOUR HIS LANDLADY SAYS TO HIM, "IF YOU DON'T PAY YOUR RENT, YOU KNOW WHAT I'LL DO?"
"I'LL KICK YOUR PIANO!"
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE SHOWN ANY INTEREST...

### Marvin


HEY, MARVIN, WANT TO GO ICE SKATE ON THE FROZEN POND WITH MY FAMILY?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THE POND IS FROZEN OVER ENOUGH THAT IT CAN SUPPORT OUR WEIGHT?
I FIGURE WE COULD LET YOU GO FIRST. IF IT HOLDS FOR YOU THEN IT SHOULD SUPPORT THE REST OF US

## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12411



**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS**
4 Staring into a ruddy great hole? (6)
7 Stroll across to pick up the prize? (4,4)
8 Candidly, it's only about half ripe (6)
10 As said by some seasider on stage? (5)
13 Chain letters? (4)
14 What the passenger did, mentioning the road (4)
15 Flier strung up? (4)
16 What father may do at uncle's? (3)
17 Given it, one is somewhat liable to return (4)
19 Type of forest in Iran? (4)
21 To say flattering things about Charlie, is a bloomer (9)
23 But at the Turk's Head, might it not contain water? (4)
24 Regarded as less than moneyed (4)
26 But not too backward to copy a letter out! (3)
27 Is she prohibited from entering outer Brentford? (4)
29 Not quite a colleen? (4)
32 Bound to be a bit excited when agitated (4)
33 Be accredited as a nobleman (5)
34 Spanish girl after an artist? (6)
35 In his sport, he needs to study a bit of form (8)
36 Usable for stiffening charts, perhaps? (6)

**DOWN**
1 Promise to distribute wares (5)
2 The infection I had was watery (5)
3 Nothing but sweetness (4)
4 Fourpence worth of history (5)
5 Strip off like a swimmer, on the quiet (4)
6 Turner of a blind eye (6)
9 Go into a price change that's an eye-opener (6)
11 Is it almost a toss up whether he's sober? (3)
12 Start being a socialite? (5)
13 Race finish in London (4,3)
15 Perhaps it's barely taken off (3)
16 Just beat up again (3)
18 Achieve new status as a titan (6)
20 Like the sound frequencies in a studio? No way! (5)
21 Get by out of uniform (3)
22 As grown in country estates? (3)
23 To brag about being a great star (6)
25 Get the girl (3)
28 The under part of W. Glamorgan? (5)
30 Positively rosy! (5)
31 A delivery flier (5)
32 Travel to an ancient city (4)
33 The gang sound a bit crude (4)

**EASY**

**ACROSS**
4 Neckwear item (6)
7 Surprise greatly (8)
8 Onto land from water (6)
10 Injures with a knife (5)
13 Flying toy (4)
14 Hawaiian dance (4)
15 Be concerned (4)
16 Congeal (3)
17 Coagulate (4)
19 Poke (4)
21 Indian film industry (9)
23 Fish (4)
24 Puts on (4)
26 Large (3)
27 Principal (4)
29 Paradise (4)
32 Female servant (4)
33 Stage whisper (5)
34 To badger (6)
35 Energetic person (4,4)
36 Mild (6)

**DOWN**
1 Draconian (5)
2 Take illegally (5)
3 Burden (4)
4 Sit on this (5)
5 Nagging pain (4)
6 Inflatable mattress (3,3)
9 Behave harshly towards (4,2)
11 Container (3)
12 Meat from a pig (5)
13 Grasshopper (7)
15 Mountain pass (3)
16 Deity (3)
18 South American mammals (6)
20 Romantic flowers (5)
21 Insect (3)
22 Was victorious (3)
23 Declamation (6)
25 Marry (3)
28 Gangway (5)
30 Any figure 1 to 9 (5)
31 At no time (5)
32 Boy's name (4)
33 Yes votes (4)

**SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12410**

**CRYPTIC**
**ACROSS:** 1, Saucer 7, Old timer 8, Ti-LL 10, Swive-L 11, Angel-a 14, Peg 16, Durer 17, Doss 19, Paris 21, Can-on 22, Pence 23, Do-N'T 26, Loser 28, Doc 29, Op.-orto 30, Mighty 31, Edge 32, Patriots 33, Siding.
**DOWN:** 1, So-used 2, C-hives 3, Roll 4, Stand-in 5, A-MB-ER 6, Friar 8, Tips 9, Leg 12, G-us 13, L-earn 15, Fancy 18, On t-op. 19, Pa(i)n(t) 20, Roe 21, Certain 22, P(l)er 23, Do-GG-Ed 24, Oche 25, Trying 26, Loops 27, Sorts 28, Did 30, Mess(age).

**EASY**
**ACROSS:** 1, Tirana 7, Dovetail 8, Bold 10, Uranus 11, Mutate 14, Keg 16, Solar 17, Ages 19, Poser 21, Notes 22, Lathe 23, Mars 26, Asset 28, Dab 29, Status 30, Serena 31, Tell 32, In charge 33, Window.
**DOWN:** 1, Trauma 2, Atones 3, Adds 4, Bemuses 5, Fatal 6, Alter 8, Bake 9, Lug 12, Tor 13, Taper 15, Moths 18, Ghost 19, Pot 20, See 21, Natural 22, Let 23, Marlin 24, Abel 25, Shadow 26, Aspic 27, Sauce 28, Dee 30, Stew.

## ◆ SU-DO-KU-6899 ◆

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | | | | 8 |
| | | 6 | | 9 | 4 | | | 3 |
| | | 8 | | | | | | |
| 7 | 9 | | | | 6 | 1 | | |
| | | 4 | 5 | | 9 | 7 | | |
| | | 2 | 4 | | | | 9 | 6 |
| | | | | | | 8 | | |
| 2 | | | 6 | 5 | | 9 | | |
| 5 | | | | 1 | 8 | | | |

hard

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 |
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 7 |

**SOLUTION TO 6898**

**To solve the puzzle:** To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

## SCRABBLE™

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I1 | N1 | V4 | G2 | A1 | W4 | R1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 1 |
| R1 | V4 | B3 | A1 | S1 | O1 | S1 | 4th Letter Double | RACK 2 |
| A1 | A1 | I1 | I1 | B3 | X8 | L1 | | RACK 3 |
| L1 | H4 | T1 | I1 | G2 | F4 | I1 | | RACK 4 |

PAR SCORE 85-95
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P3 | E1 | R1 | F4 | O1 | R1 | M3 | RACK 1 | = 64 |
| A1 | N1 | C3 | H4 | O1 | R1 | S1 | RACK 2 | = 68 |
| D2 | A1 | U1 | N1 | T1 | S1 | | RACK 3 | = 7 |
| P3 | A1 | I1 | N1 | E1 | D2 | | RACK 4 | = 18 |
| | | | | | | | JUDD'S TOTAL | 157 |

PAR SCORE 100-110

## JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

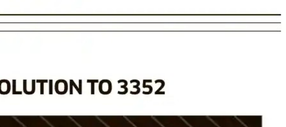
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ILTET

VNYEO

NBTNOE

REHLBA


This is the greatest thing ever!
It is pretty cool.
I'm going to invite all my friends over!
WHEN CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING WAS INVENTED, THERE WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____ - _____"
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DAISY ARENA INLAND POETIC
Answer: The math museum in NYC was moving because it wasn't possible to build — AN ADDITION

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## HITORI-3353

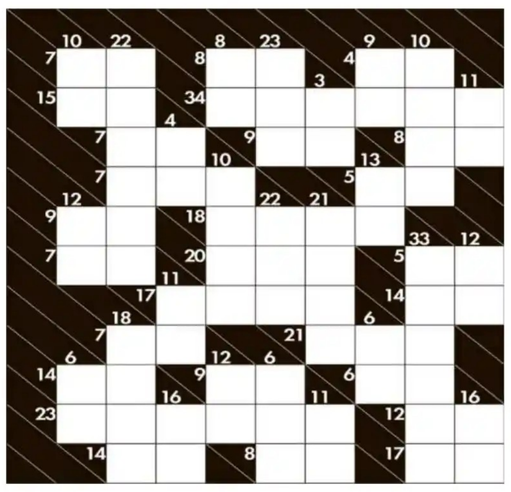
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| 5 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 |

**SOLUTION TO 3352**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 7 | 4 | ■ | 1 | 6 | ■ | 8 |
| 3 | 1 | ■ | 7 | 6 | ■ | 2 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | ■ | 2 | 7 | ■ |
| ■ | 8 | 1 | ■ | 5 | ■ | 4 | 3 |
| 5 | 2 | ■ | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 7 | ■ | 3 | 4 | 2 | ■ | 5 | ■ |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | ■ | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| ■ | 6 | 5 | 2 | ■ | 4 | 3 | ■ |

**To solve the puzzle:** Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

## KAKURO- 3353



**SOLUTION TO 3352**

**To solve the puzzle:** Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

## SU DO KU X - 3908

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | | | 8 | 4 | 1 | | | 3 |
| | ■ | | | | | | 5 | |
| | | ■ | | | | ■ | 1 | 7 |
| 6 | | | ■ | | ■ | | | |
| 5 | | | | ■ | | | | |
| 7 | 9 | | ■ | 8 | 2 | | | 6 |
| 8 | | ■ | 9 | | 6 | ■ | 3 | |
| | 2 | | | | | | ■ | |
| ■ | | | | 1 | | 6 | | |

**SOLUTION TO 3907**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 9 |

**To solve the puzzle:** The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

# Trump makes new threats as Iran 'doubts' US proposals

Iran, From Page 1

Washington is reportedly awaiting a response from Tehran on several key points in the next 48 hours.

"Nothing has been agreed yet, but the sources said this was the closest the parties had been to an agreement since the war began," Axios said.

However, a senior Iranian parliament member said on Wednesday that the Axios report that includes the text of a US proposal for an agreement with Iran to end the war was more of a wishlist than a reality.

"The Axios text is more of an American wish list than a reality; Americans will not gain anything in a war they are losing that they have not gained in face-to-face negotiations," Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson for parliament's foreign policy and national security committee posted on X.

Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Wednesday that Washington was seeking Tehran's surrender through various means, including a naval blockade.

"The enemy, in its new design, is seeking, through a naval blockade, economic pressure and media manipulation, to destroy the country's cohesion in order to force us to surrender," Ghalibaf said in a voice message published on his official Telegram channel.

The influential speaker of the Iranian parliament did not elaborate on the prospects for a peace plan with the United States, as Tehran continues to review elements of a US proposal.

Meanwhile, Iran's Tasnim news agency said Tehran has not yet responded to the latest US proposal aimed at ending the war. Citing an unnamed source , the report said the draft contained some unacceptable provisions.

"Using the language of threat against Iran is ineffective, could worsen the situation for the United States," the source said.

Trump late Tuesday announced a pause in a US military operation to guide stranded commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz — after only a day — citing a chance to seal a deal to end the war.

The US leader said Washington's blockade of Iranian ports would remain in place as Tehran kept up its own closure of the vital trade route, which has rocked markets and spiked fuel prices.

Trump wrote on social media that the decision to halt his so-called "Project Freedom" a day after it began came after requests from "mediator Pakistan and other countries", saying "Great Progress has been made toward a Complete and Final Agreement" with Tehran.

# Sankey Tank drying up? Residents, experts raise concerns

## Say decline in water level far steeper this time

Sankey Tank water levels fall sharply, sparking concern over steep seasonal drop. DH FILE PHOTO

**SNEHA RAMESH**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Water levels at Sankey Tank have dropped sharply this summer, triggering concern among local residents and experts.

While seasonal dips are not unusual, residents say the decline this year is far steeper than in recent years.

"We have not seen water levels fall this low before. It looks unnatural, and we have written to the Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) seeking a study. We are also reaching out to experts to assess the situation," said Preeti Sunderajan, a member of the Citizens for Sankey collective.

Veena Srinivasan of WELL Labs, who analysed Google Earth images of the lake over the past two decades along with rainfall and groundwater data, said the tank has historically been sustained by groundwater.

"Groundwater levels in the Malleswaram monitoring well have remained relatively shallow, at about 2–6 metres below ground level. This suggests groundwater likely contributed to sustaining the tank during the dry season," she said.

She added that the lack of pre-monsoon showers and higher-than-average temperatures in March and April are unlikely to be the primary cause of the drop.

Instead, she pointed to three possible reasons: a crack in the outlet weir may be causing leakage into the downstream channel; a diversion in a stormwater drain upstream may have reduced inflow during the last monsoon; or a fall in groundwater levels this summer may have reduced the base flow into the lake.

Veena recommended inspecting the outlet weir and downstream channel for leaks, and mapping and monitoring open wells around Sankey Tank to track groundwater levels.

**PREETI SUNDERAJAN**
Member, Citizens for Sankey collective

"We have not seen water levels fall this low before. It looks unnatural, and we have written to the Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC), seeking a study. We are also reaching out to experts to assess the situation.

BWCC officials are yet to determine the exact cause or outline corrective measures.

"We will assess the situation soon. We have also sought assistance from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and private researchers and residents have offered support," said BWCC Commissioner Rajendra KV.

# Police called in after woman alleges assault by PG owner

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A young woman staying in a paying-guest accommodation in northern Bengaluru's Mathikere has accused the PG owner of assaulting and threatening to evict her after she complained about the theft of Rs 2,500 from her room.

Aishwarya (22), who has stayed at the PG for seven months, found Rs 2,500 in cash missing from her room on May 3 and informed the owner, Ibrahim, 48. However, the owner's wife reportedly told her that she should have ensured her own safety and kept the premises locked at all times, according to her police complaint.

When Aishwarya questioned this, the owner reportedly asked her to vacate immediately. She sought a month's time and asked to deduct at least Rs 1,500 from the rent due to the loss, which reportedly led to a confrontation.

Aishwarya dialled 112 for help and even approached the media about the incident. The PG owner, assaulted her and threatened her to leave the PG immediately. She alleged that the police arrived late and delayed accepting her complaint.

A non-cognisable report has been registered.

# Alignment plans out for bullet trains from B'luru to Chennai and Hyderabad

Train, From Page 1

Railway activists are dismayed that neither corridor touches Majestic, Bengaluru's key transit hub.

The approximate alignment for the Bengaluru-Mysuru route (157.34 km) will include stations at Mandya, Ramanagara, Kengeri and Electronics City (near Huskur).

The Ramanagara station was not part of the initial alignment. As per the alignment, the Mysuru line will join the Chennai line at Kodihalli.

The Hyderabad-Pune route will have a station at Kalaburagi.

An official from the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), which will implement all the projects, said that surveys were underway for all the lines.

Kolar Lok Sabha member M Mallesh Babu said that LiDAR surveys covering topographic data and traffic and social and environmental impact assessment studies, had been completed in the Kolar district.

"The required properties have been identified. Kolar will get one station. The groundwork is expected to start around 2027-28," the MP told *DH*.

Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the MP for Mysore-Kodagu, said the railway minister had given a positive response to including the Mysuru-Bengaluru route.

"I have already requested the minister to extend it to Mysuru. All the studies, including the one by a German firm, have established that Mysuru should be part of this corridor. Mysuru ticks all the boxes, including economics. We are hopeful that a decision on including Mysuru will be taken soon," he told this newspaper.

In February, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that travel time on the Bengaluru-Chennai corridor would be one hour and 13 minutes and Bengaluru-Hyderabad would take two hours.

The projects will feature B-28 trains, also called Bharat-made bullet trainsets, which BEML, the Bengaluru-based PSU, is manufacturing at a specialised complex.

Bullet train projects have long gestation periods due to land acquisition hurdles, technical challenges and financing constraints.

The 508-kilometre Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor, India's first, was approved in May 2014 and is expected to fully open only in December 2029.

# MLA ticket quota: BCCI moves IPL final from Bengaluru

IPL final, From Page 1

"The distribution of tickets to MLAs has nothing to do with the shifting of the final match. Elsewhere, 505 (of tickets) will be reserved (for lagislators)," Shivakumar said while responding to media queries.

Karnataka State Cricket Association obviously wasn't too amused over losing out a chance to host the final. "At the outset, KSCA expresses its disappointment that the IPL Playoff matches have been allotted to other centres," it said in a statement following BCCI's announcement to the effect. "KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad was personally in touch with the BCCI in this regard and had also formally conveyed KSCA's preparedness, willingness and keen interest in hosting the IPL Playoffs at the iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium." Stuck between a rock and a hard place (read BCCI and state government), KSCA's helplessness was understandable.

"Despite our preparedness and willingness to host the Playoffs, we understand that the BCCI has taken a decision to allot these matches to other venues. While the specific reasons for the same have not been formally communicated to KSCA, we fully respect the prerogative and decision-making authority of the BCCI in this regard."

# GBA chief gives 3-month deadline for Wind Tunnel Road underpass

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Wednesday directed officials to deploy modern equipment and complete work on the Wind Tunnel Road underpass within three months.

Rao said the road receives heavy traffic and the works needed to finish at the earliest.

"More machinery should be put in place and works should be carried out in three shifts to ensure that the works are completed on time," he said.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has already approved the works, and traffic from HAL towards the city has been diverted. Construction of the retaining wall is in progress.

Rao asked officials to coordinate with the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and other agencies to ensure that pipelines and cables on the stretch are shifted immediately.

The GBA has taken up construction of a 300-m underpass at the junction at a cost of Rs 19 crore, with close to 60% of the work complete. To ensure traffic flow is not disrupted during construction, the GBA has built temporary roads on defence land and through the ISRO, NAL and other private properties.

# Anti-defection panel may moot denying turncoats plum posts

Anti-defection, From Page 1

The committee is also seeking to resolve the hierarchy between the party whip and the Legislature Party's chief whip in issuing binding directions to legislators. Another key recommendation being examined is to deny voting rights to a defecting member during a no-confidence motion, aiming to prevent engineered majorities.

To address delays, the panel is considering a statutory time limit for deciding disqualification petitions against defected members. "The process gets prolonged for years. We hope to fix it to three to six months," said Khader.

A separate committee of presiding officers on 'Rules and Procedures', headed by the Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker, will meet in Mysuru on May 12 and 13 to evolve common rules across state legislatures. The panel includes Speakers of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Delhi.

"Every state has different rules and procedures, though 80% of the rules are the same. We will scrutinise the best practices and recommend common rules and procedures. A report will be submitted to the Lok Sabha Speaker within six months," Khader said.

# 692 stolen mobiles worth Rs 1.75 cr recovered in special drive

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** North-East Division police recovered 692 stolen mobile phones worth Rs 1.75 crore using the CEIR portal during a special drive.

The operation was carried out across 11 police station limits, tracing missing and stolen devices reported by the public. Among the stations, Sampigehalli police recovered 107 phones, Vidyaranyapura 86, Bagalur 85, and Yelahanka 83.

Additional recoveries were made in Yelahanka New Town, Kodigehalli, Kothanur, Amruthahalli, Chikkajala, Devanahalli and the Kempegowda International Airport police station limits.

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**Advt. No. 02/2026**

CSIR invites applications/nominations for the position of Chairperson, CSIR-Recruitment and Assessment Board (CSIR-RAB), New Delhi, in Level 16 of pay-matrix (Rs.2,05,400-2,24,400) plus allowances as admissible or such consolidated pay as recommended by the Search cum Selection Committee.

For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed/complete advertisement No. **02/2026** on CSIR website **www.csir.res.in**. Applications / nominations may be sent along with complete bio-data through email at **drc.hqrs@csir.res.in** or by post to Director Recruitment Cell, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi -110001 on or before **15/06/2026.**

**CBC 36202/11/0001/2627**

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**e-Tender Notice No. MC_SC_Coachamenity_SDAH_26, Dated: 27.04.2026.** Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Room no. 42, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 invites sealed Open Tenders on "TWO PACKET SYSTEM" in prescribed tender forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work:- **Name/Description of Work:** Outsourcing of General furnishing, Carpentry, Plumbing, trimming, and other passenger amenities attention in primary and round trip maintained coaches at Sealdah, CP coaching depot for three years and repairing of reclining mechanism in chair car for 03 years." **Tender Value (in Rs.) :** ₹ 19,01,80,739.31; **Earnest Money (in Rs.):** ₹ 11,00,900.00; **Period of Contract (in year) :** 03; **Cost of Tender Documents (in Rs):** ₹ 0.00; **Bidding Start Date:** 05.05.2026; **Date & Time of Closing of Tender :** 19.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs.; **Date & Timing of Tender Opening :** 19.05.2026 at 15.00 hrs.; Tender document including e-tender notice and eligibility criteria of the work may be seen and downloaded from **www.ireps.gov.in** (Website URL). No manual offer will be accepted.

SDAH-29/2026-27

**Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in**

**Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter**

**S. E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER**

**Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/15, Dated: 06.05.2026.** Tender for "E" Procurement System. The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed **at 14.00 hrs.**

| Sl. No. | Tender No. | Closing Date | Brief Description | Quantity | EMD amount (₹) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 38235002C | 25.05.2026 | Light Weight Low Height 25T axle load (LWLH 25) Bogie Assembly Complete for BOXNS wagon | 75 set | 8,83,230 |
| 2 | 38263003 | 28.05.2026 | El make "Backing ring" for Class E CTRB | 4440 nos. | 1,36,220 |
| 3 | 38263856 | 01.06.2026 | SAB for BOXNHL Wagon etc. | 765 nos. | 1,46,580 |
| 4 | 75261788 | 26.05.2026 | Vinyl Coated Upholstery Fabric (Artificial leather) for Non- AC Coaches etc. | 189039 Mtr. | 4,84,320 |
| 5 | 29260047 | 25.05.2026 | LED based Twin Beam Head Light for WAG-9 | 480 set | 3,72,350 |
| 6 | 29264588 | 25.05.2026 | End frame Driving end Assembly (Modified) | 245 nos. | 4,61,130 |
| 7 | 29263244 | 01.06.2026 | Rotor Shaft (Finish Machined) | 124 nos. | 2,12,160 |
| 8 | 29263234 | 02.06.2026 | High Voltage Bushing | 109 nos. | 4,33,300 |
| 9 | 29263250 | 03.06.2026 | Modified Single Duct Leather Bellow for Traction Motor | 290 set | 4,24,090 |
| 10 | 29263206 | 10.06.2026 | Contractor for Head Light, Auxiliaries Compressor | 810 nos. | 2,90,560 |
| 11 | 29263671 | 11.06.2026 | Surge Arrester (Gapless Lightning Arrester) | 150 nos. | 2,69,040 |
| 12 | 25261246 | 15.06.2026 | Blower Motor Complete without Impeller for MVMT | 64 nos. | 1,41,950 |
| 13 | 29263277 | 17.06.2026 | Set of items for Contransys make Pantograph | 50 set | 2,19,940 |
| 14 | 29264597 | 18.06.2026 | IOH Overhauling kit for pantograph | 73 set | 2,42,550 |
| 15 | 56255237A | 12.05.2026 | Supply of Relay Style QL1 etc. | 927 nos. | 1,15,530 |

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B:** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR-131)**

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-Narendra Modi

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CBC 15423/15/0001/2627

# US aiming to force surrender, says Iran

## Beijing urges Tehran to reopen Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN/BEIJING, AFP/PTI

Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Wednesday that Washington was seeking Tehran's surrender through various means, including a naval blockade.

"The enemy, in its new strategy, is seeking, through a naval blockade, economic pressure and media manipulation, to destroy the country's cohesion in order to force us to surrender," Ghalibaf said in a voice message published on his official Telegram channel.

The influential speaker of the Iranian parliament did not elaborate on prospects for a peace plan with the US, as Tehran continues to review elements of a US proposal.

Foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said Tehran would convey its position to key mediator Pakistan after "finalising its views".

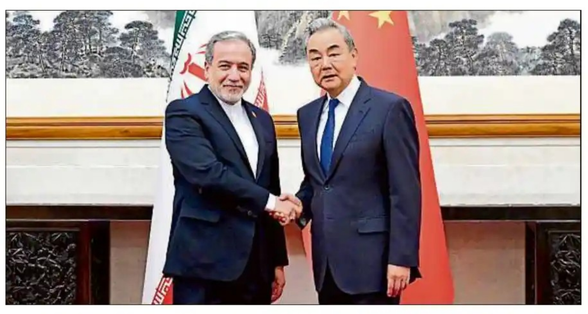
Meanwhile, China on Wednesday called on Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz "as soon as possible", while appreciating Tehran's commitment not to develop nuclear weapons—a key demand of US President Donald Trump to end the war with the Islamic Republic.

"On the issue of the Strait, the international community shares a common concern over restoring normal and secure navigation, and China hopes relevant parties will respond as soon as possible to this call," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi during talks in Beijing.

Wang also appreciated Iran's commitment not to develop nuclear weapons and affirmed its legitimate right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Trump has been demanding that Iran hand over its stockpiles of enriched uranium and commit for 20 years not to develop nuclear weapons.

Araghchi, on his first visit to Beijing since the US-Iran war began in late February, briefed Wang on ongoing negotiations with Washington aimed at ending the conflict.

"China believes that achieving a comprehensive ceasefire is an urgent priority, while reopening hostilities would be even more undesirable," Wang said.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on Wednesday. REUTERS

BSF personnel patrol along the India–Bangladesh border in Golakganj, Assam. On the other side, Border Guard Bangladesh has been asked to remain on alert. AFP FILE PHOTO

# Bangladesh hopes to avoid 'pushback' after BJP election victories

## Dhaka asks its forces to remain on alert along the border with India

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Wednesday expressed hope that people would not be pushed into the country following the BJP's victory in recent Assembly elections in bordering Indian states.

"I hope no such incidents (pushbacks) will happen," Ahmed told reporters when asked if he feared an increase in cases of people suspected of being illegal immigrants being pushed from India. However, he said the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has been asked to remain alert along the frontiers.

Ahmed's comments came a day after Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was quoted on the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party's official Facebook page as saying that Bangladesh would take action if "push-in" incidents occurred amid the change of power in the bordering state of West Bengal.

On Monday, Assembly election results were announced in West Bengal, where the BJP secured a sweeping majority. During its campaign, the party repeatedly accused the Mamata Banerjee-led government of allowing an influx of Bangladeshi nationals—an allegation the state government has denied. The BJP also retained power in the neighbouring state of Assam for a third consecutive term.

The term "pushback" is typically used to describe the forceful return of people believed to be illegal migrants across borders, while receiving countries often refer to it as "push-in".

In recent years, such cases between India and Bangladesh have largely been reported along border areas in some northeastern states.

## Australian women with IS links face arrest on return

**MELBOURNE, AP/PTI:** A number of Australian women with alleged ties to the Islamic State (IS) group will be arrested and face criminal investigations if they return from Syria, police said on Wednesday.

The Australian government was alerted that four women and nine children had booked flights from Damascus to Australia, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke said. He did not specify when they were expected to arrive.

The Australian Federal Police have been investigating the behaviour of Australians who travelled to the Islamic State group's so-called caliphate in Syria since 2015, Police Commissioner Krissy Barrett said.

Investigations have included potential terrorism offences and crimes against humanity, including slave trading, she said. "Some individuals will be arrested and charged. Some will face continued investigations when they arrive in Australia," Barrett told reporters.

The children will undergo programmes to counter violent extremism, she added.

The government is required to provide the group with travel documents but has repeatedly said it was not assisting their repatriation.

## UK launches team to combat antisemitic hate crimes

**LONDON, PTI:** The Metropolitan Police on Wednesday launched a dedicated Community Protection Team, comprising an initial tranche of 100 additional officers, to tackle rising antisemitic hate crimes in London.

The new team brings together neighbourhood policing, specialist protection and counter-terrorism capabilities to provide a "more visible, intelligence-led and coordinated" presence focused on protecting Jewish communities across the city.

It follows a spate of anti-Jewish crimes in the UK capital, including last week's terrorist attack in Golders Green that left two men with serious stab injuries.

"The creation of a new Community Protection Team of around 100 officers is an important step in strengthening our response to the sustained threats Jewish communities are facing," said Met Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley.

"It brings together experienced local officers who know their communities, supported by specialist capabilities, to provide more visible, consistent and intelligence-led protection."

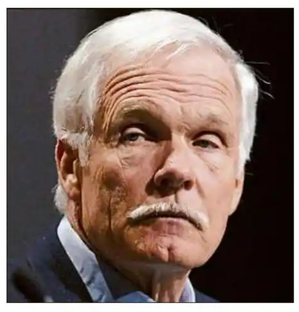
# CNN founder Ted Turner, who transformed news biz, dies

NEW YORK, AP/PTI

Ted Turner, a brash and outspoken television pioneer who raced yachts, owned vast tracts of the American West and transformed the news business by launching CNN in 1980, has died at the age of 87.

CNN reported that he died on Wednesday, citing a Turner Enterprises news release.

Turner owned professional sports teams in Atlanta, defended the America's Cup in yachting in 1977 and donated a remarkable US$1 billion to United Nations charities. He married three times—most famously to actor Jane Fonda—and earned the nicknames "Captain Outrageous" and "The Mouth of the South".



Ted Turner. AFP FILE

He once quipped: "If only I had a little humility, I'd be perfect."

He was slowed in later years by Lewy body dementia. Long removed from the television business, he focused on philanthropy and his more than two million acres of land, including the nation's largest bison herd.

His garrulous personality sometimes overshadowed his driven, risk-taking business acumen. By the time he sold Turner Broadcasting System to Time Warner Inc. in a 1996 media deal, he had transformed his late father's billboard company into a global conglomerate that included seven major cable networks, three professional sports teams and two successful film studios.

Turner's signature achievement was the creation of CNN, the first 24-hour all-news television network, in 1980. At a time when news was not instantly available, the idea of allowing viewers to choose when to access updates was revolutionary. In part, his own frustration with television news drove the idea.

## 'Safe transit possible with US ending threats'

Safe transit through the Strait of Hormuz will be ensured with United States threats coming to an end and new procedures in place, the Revolutionary Guards' Navy said on Wednesday, according to state media, in Iran's first reaction to the US pausing operations to help stranded ships pass through the strait. The Guards' statement did not specify what the new procedures entailed and thanked owners and captains of ships for respecting Iranian regulations when moving through the waterway.

## WORLD AT A GLANCE

(L to R) Dave Murray, Adrian Smith, Nicko McBrain and Bruce Dickinson of Iron Maiden pose upon arrival to attend the world premiere of 'Iron Maiden: Burning Ambition' in London on Tuesday. AFP

### 3 evacuated from cruise ship with hantavirus outbreak

▸ A cruise ship at the centre of a deadly hantavirus outbreak, stranded off the coast of Cape Verde with nearly 150 people on board, was awaiting clearance on Wednesday to sail to Spain's Canary Islands, AP/PTI reports from Geneva.

Meanwhile, health authorities in South Africa and Switzerland have identified the Andes strain of the virus, which in rare cases can be transmitted between humans. Three passengers have died and several others have fallen ill on board the Dutch-flagged MV Hondius. Hantavirus typically spreads through inhalation of contaminated rodent droppings. The ship left Argentina on April 1 on an Atlantic cruise that was due to include stops in Antarctica, the Falkland Islands and other locations, but its itinerary has since been altered due to the outbreak. World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said three patients with suspected hantavirus had been evacuated and were on their way to the Netherlands. He added that the UN health agency is working with the ship's operators to monitor the health of passengers and crew.

### Russia snubs Ukraine truce

▸ Russia fired dozens of drones at Ukraine in overnight attacks, Ukrainian officials said on Wednesday, disregarding a unilateral ceasefire announced by Kyiv that began at midnight, AP/PTI reports from Kyiv.

The Russian Defence Ministry claimed that Ukraine had not adhered to its own ceasefire, saying air defences shot down 53 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions, the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula and the Black Sea between Tuesday evening and dawn on Wednesday. Five people were killed in a Ukrainian strike on the city of Dzhankoi in Crimea, according to Russian officials.

International women's movement FEMEN and Pussy Riot activists stage a protest against Russia at the Venice Biennale art show in Italy on Wednesday. AFP


**KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer K.N.N.L.,
GRBCC Division No. 3, Gokak. Tq : Gokak, Dist : Belagavi.
State : Karnataka. Pin - 591 307. Phone : 08332-225213,
E-mail : knnlgrbccd3.gokak@gmail.com

No. : K.N.N.L./G.R.B.C.C.-3/GKK/DB/Tender/H.Ac.4701 M&MI/ 2026-27/01 Date : 05-05-2026

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(Through KPP Portal only)

On behalf of the **Managing Director Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L., GRBCC. Division No. 3, Gokak, Belagavi District** in Karnataka State invites tenders on Percentage Basis on KPP Portal.

**General Works - (02) Indent Nos. : 4409 & 4410, Amount Put to Tender (Approximately) (Excluding GST, Rs. 203.34 Lakhs & Rs. 422.01 Lakhs.**

**Valid eligible KPWD registered contractor can participate in this tender. The intending Bidders can Submit Bids as an individual only. The Contractor can have access to the E-tender Document, i.e. the Tender Schedules, Bid Documents and other Documents in the Website : https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on Payment of Transaction Fee (non-refundable) from : 08-05-2026 to 18-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. The Pre-Bid Meeting will be on : 14-05-2026, 11.00 Hrs, in the Office of the Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L., GRBCC. Division No. 3, Gokak. The queries if any are to be sent by the intending bidders to the Executive Engineer on or before : 15-05-2026, 17.00 Hrs. Last Date of Bid Submission is on :18-05-2026, 16.00 Hrs. Technical Bid Opening on : 20-05-2026, 11.00 Hrs. Financial Bid Opening will be done after approval of Technical Bid.**

Further information can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L. GRBCC. Division No. 3, Gokak, Belagavi District, State : Karnataka during Office hours. Phone : 08332-225213 & E-mail : knnlgrbccd3.gokak@gmail.com.** Other conditions are as published in KPP Portal only. Further if any Corrigendum / Addendum or any modifications of this tender will be published in the Website of KPP Portal only.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, (I/C)**
DIPR/Belagavi/196/Manipal/2026-27 **K.N.N.L., GRBCC Div. No. 3, Gokak.**



Governor of Karnataka
**Office of the Executive Engineer,**
**Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Davanagere**
EE/PRE/Dn/Dvg/AE/Out Soures/Tender/2026-27/210
Dated: 6/5/2026

**Tender Invited (KPPP Portal)**

Executive Engineer, Panchayath raj Engineering Division, Davanagere here by invited Service tender for Man Power Supply of Data Entry Operators, Drivers, Secuirity Guard and D Groop Out Soures Employees through KPPP Portal, in the standard Bid documents with two cover system. EMD has as per KPPP portal, Nature of Service is Man Power Supply. The last date for submission of tender bid is on date: 16/5/2026 5.00 PM, for any office information / clarification please contact the below singed office Ph no:08192-250156 and also search website for www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿಎಜಿ/64/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**P.R.E. Division, Davanagere**



**BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION**
Office of Assistant Conservator of Forest, RHB Colony,
Phoenix Mall Opposite, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru - 560048

No.: ACF/BECC/TENDER/02/2026-27 Date: 06.05.2026

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Only Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)**

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, BECC, Bengaluru invites service tender two cover systems from Contractors registered in CPWD / KPWD / FOREST / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the service detailed in the table below.

**Following are the Service and Events of Bid process:**

| Sl. No. | Name of works |
|---|---|
| 1 | Bengaluru East City Corporation Rapid Response Team-1, Mahadevapura Constituency Zone-1, 90 days. **Indent: BECC/2026-27/SE59, Estimate Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00, EMD Rs. 2.00%: 25,000.00.** |
| 2 | Bengaluru East City Corporation Rapid Response Team-1, K R Puram Constituency Zone-2, 90 days. **Indent: BECC/2026-27/SE60, Estimate Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00, EMD Rs. 2.00%: 25,000.00.** |
| 3 | Mobile Hydraulic Crane 20 t capacity (The rates include crew charges, operational & maintenance charges such as cost of fuel, lubricants, stores, establishments and depreciation & interest charges on hypothecation.) (Vol-1 Common SR-2023-24 Page No. A-45, Sl. No. 76) and Hydraulic Excavator of 0.9 m3 Bucket and Hiring of Tractor. **Indent: BECC/2026-27/SE61, Estimate Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00, EMD Rs. 2.00%: 25,000.00.** |

**Time Schedule: (1)** Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from eProcurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**: from **07.05.2026, 3:00 p.m.** onward. **(2)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: upto **11.05.2026, 3:00 p.m. (3)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting: **11.05.2026, 4:00 p.m.** at the following venue: Office of Assistant Conservator of Forest, RHB Colony, Phoenix Mall Opposite, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru. email: acfeastgba@gmail.com. **(4)** Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: upto **14.05.2026, 5:00 p.m. (5)** Date and Time of Online opening of RFP applications in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **16.05.2026, 11:00 a.m. (6)** Date and time of online Financial opening of tender: When approval of Technical bid. **(7)** Place of opening of RFP: Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. **(8)** Address for Communication: **Office of Assistant Conservator of Forest, RHB Colony, Phoenix Mall Opposite, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru. email: acfeastgba@gmail.com,** Contact: **9900245013.**

**Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru East City Corporation**



**ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ**
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ನಂ.ಎಚ್.ಡಿಎಂಸಿ/66/07/02/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–05–2026

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ**

**ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆ** ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪಿಡ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

**ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವಾರ್ಡ ಸದಸ್ಯರ /ಮಹಾಪೌರರ/ಉಪಮಹಾಪೌರರ/ಅಮೃತ 2.0 ಅನುದಾನ**

1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 53896/9.93 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54610/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 3) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54149/13.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 4) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54147/2.25 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 5) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54612/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 6) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 49139/2.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 7) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56116/8.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 8) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 55124/30.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 9) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 55128/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 10) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54105/ 14.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 11) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 48796/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 12) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54159/4.05 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 13) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 53141/7.10 ಲಕ್ಷ/ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 14) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 53145/18.45 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 15) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54629/7.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 16) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54075/15.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 17) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54145/15.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 18) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 53571/25.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 19) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54626/4.10 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 20) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54158/5.11 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 21) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54141/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 22) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 51287/14.10 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 23) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54630/35.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 24) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56117/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 25) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 53994/32.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 26) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 53101/38.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 27) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 53103/6.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 28) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 53075/13.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 29) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54088/26.60 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 30) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 53901/25.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 31) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 49066/7.27 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 32) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 49822/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 33) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54391/2.20 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 34) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 51957/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 35) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 52551/3.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 36) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 52217/23.60 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 37) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54745/6.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 38) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56235/30.27 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 39) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56205/8.05 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 40) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56191/8.05 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 41) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56152/12.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ 42) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 55242/25.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 43) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56145/25.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 44) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57647/11.50ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 45) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57649/30.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 46) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56949/10.30 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 47) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 55951/2.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 48) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56976/25.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 49) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 55327/21.80 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 50) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 58004/34.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 51) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57958/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 52) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57360/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 53) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54100/20.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 54) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 52924/4.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 55) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 52884/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 56) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 49114/34.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. 57) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54567/45.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–1 58) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57619/8.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ 59) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57622/7.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 60) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57621/19.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 61) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56778/12.63 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ 62) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56779/12.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–1 63) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 56777/25.75 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. 64) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57692/8.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 65) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57956/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. 66) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57995/4.88 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. 67) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57993/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ 68) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57991/6.30 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 69) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 57576/410.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ.

ಒಟ್ಟು 69 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1417.29 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಧಾರವಾಡ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836–2213838** ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅ.ನಂ. 1 ರಿಂದ 69 ರವರೆಗೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–05–2026** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (1 ರಿಂದ 55 ಕ್ಕೆ)
1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–05–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆ
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–05–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10:00 ಗಂಟೆ

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (56 ರಿಂದ 68 ಕ್ಕೆ)
1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–05–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18–05–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10:00 ಗಂಟೆ

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (69 ಕ್ಕೆ)
1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–06–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–06–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆ 3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–06–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆ

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಡಿಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/134/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2026–27 ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

## Biz Bytes

### Brigade net profit declines 23.69% in Q4

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Bengaluru-based property developer Brigade Enterprises Ltd on Wednesday reported 23.69% decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 190 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2026. In the corresponding quarter last year, the company's net profit stood at Rs 249 crore. Its revenue for the quarter was flat at Rs 1,523 crore as against Rs 1,532 crore in the year ago period.

Commenting on the performance, Pavitra Shankar, Managing Director, Brigade Enterprises Ltd said, "We recorded our strongest quarter of FY26, with pre-sales of Rs 2,521 crore, a 44% sequential increase, driven by strong new launch absorption and disciplined pricing. Average realisations improved 9% year-on-year."

To commemorae the 40th anniversary of Brigade, the Board has recommended a bonus issue of 1:3. The Board has also recommended a final dividend of Rs 2 per equity share (20%) of Rs 10 each for the financial year 2025-26.

### Meesho Q4 net loss narrows to Rs 166.34 crore

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** E-commerce firm Meesho on Wednesday said its consolidated net loss narrowed to Rs 166.34 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31.

The company had posted a net loss of Rs 1,391.38 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, according to a regulatory filing.

Meesho's consolidated revenue from operations for the quarter under review increased 47.13% to Rs 3,531.21 crore, compared to Rs 2,399.97 crore a year ago. Meanwhile, total expenses stood at Rs 3,807 crore against Rs 2,636.83 crore a year ago.

For the full FY2025-26, Meesho's consolidated net loss narrowed to Rs 1,357.73 crore, from Rs 3,941.70 crore in FY25.

# Over 1,200 GCCs embed AI and ML capabilities, says report

**India currently hosts 2,117 GCCs operating across 3,728 units**

**UMA KANNAN**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Over 1,200 global capability centres (GCCs) have Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning capabilities, and more than 250 run dedicated AI/ML Centres of Excellence (CoE) with a talent base of 250,000 AI professionals.

Nasscom, in partnership with Zinnov, on Wednesday released the findings of its latest GCC Landscape Report, titled, 'GCC Value Orbit: From Delivery Engine to Enterprise Nerve Centre' on the sidelines of the Nasscom GCC Summit 2026. The findings revealed that India is the second-largest employer of enterprise AI talent globally (28% of the global GCC AI talent pool), after the US.

AI hiring in India was up significantly in the second half of FY25. AI talent is deputed to business units and domain talent is rotating into AI CoEs. As per the findings, India currently hosts 2,117 GCCs operating across 3,728 units and employing around 2.36 million professionals as of FY26. The ecosystem's total market revenue stands at $98.4 billion.

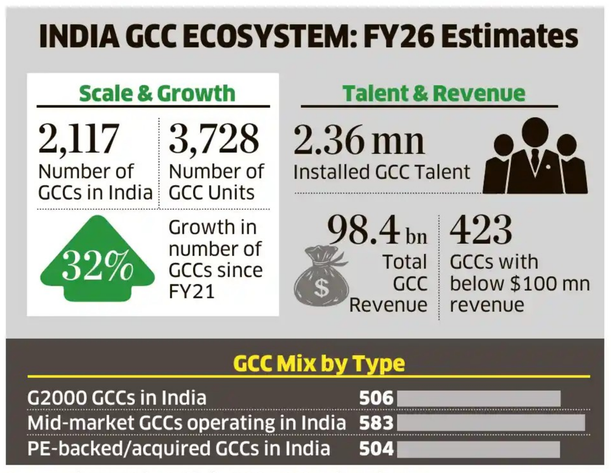
The report highlighted that about 75% of the country's GCCs can reach Portfolio or Transformation status by FY2030.

About 46% of GCCs now operate at Portfolio or Transformation Hub maturity, up from 42% in FY21. What took 10 years for GCCs to reach portfolio stage now takes five years, as 27% of new GCCs reach portfolio stage within five years. Portfolio Hub is one where GCCs have product, platform and horizontal competencies, with global roles and strategic partnerships. It refers to a mature, strategic stage of evolution, and takes end-to-end ownership.

Transformation Hub refers to high-maturing hubs, driving innovation and AI adoption. According to the report, 5% of the country's GCCs have already transitioned into high-maturity hubs.

Also, GCC real estate run is expanding from 263 million sq ft to 350 million sq ft. The report added that GCC hiring will continue to be resilient and at moderate pace.

Nasscom President Rajesh Nambiar said, "India's GCC ecosystem is undergoing a fundamental reset. The shift from scale to value is now well underway, with AI acting as the catalyst. GCCs are increasingly taking ownership of global products, platforms, and business outcomes, positioning India as a strategic nerve centre for enterprises worldwide."

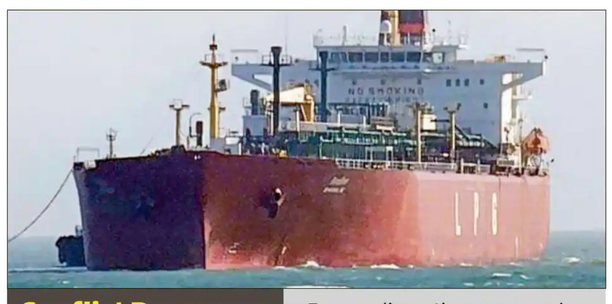



**Source:** Zinnov, PrivateCircle, ROC, EPFO, Wizmatic, Nasscom
**FY26E:** Data estimated as of March 2026

# S&P lowers GDP growth projection for FY27 to 6.6%

**'West Asia conflict puts spotlight on energy, food security'**

**GYANENDRA KESHRI**
NEW DELHI, DHNS




**Conflict Pressures**
The current energy crisis against the backdrop of the West Asia war underscores the need for a reliable and resilient energy system.

- Energy disruptions may push inflation to around **5.1%**, led by food and fuel
- Wholesale inflation likely to stay higher than retail, hitting businesses more
- Food and fuel to be key drivers

Growth estimated to moderate sharply in the current fiscal

S&P Global on Wednesday lowered India's economic growth projection for the current financial year to 6.6%, from its earlier 7.1%, citing disruption in trade and energy flows and higher inflation due to the West Asia conflict.

"The Middle East war represents the biggest test of India's resilience in recent years, with the largest energy shock on record triggering spillovers into freight and insurance costs, supply chains and fertilisers," S&P Global said in its latest 'India Forward' report, jointly done with Crisil.

Crisil Chief Economist Dharmakirti Joshi said disruption in energy supplies is likely to push India's retail inflation to 5.1% in 2026-27, from around 2% the previous year. "Food and fuel will be key drivers," he said.

Joshi said Wholesale Price Index-based (WPI) inflation is likely to surpass Consumer Price Index-based (CPI) retail inflation in the coming months, indicating higher impact of price rise in businesses. Despite a sharp jump in crude prices since the beginning of the Iran war on February 28, retail prices of petrol and diesel remain largely unchanged. Joshi said it would be reflected in the inflation numbers in April and subsequent months.

India's annual GDP growth averaged 7.3% between FY23 and FY26. For the financial year ended March 2026, the GDP growth has been pegged at 7.6%. The growth is estimated to moderate sharply in the current fiscal.

The 'India Forward' report's projection of 6.6% GDP growth for the current fiscal year is Crisil's estimate. The report noted that the sustained nature of the West Asia conflict is changing India's risk management focus from immediate buffers to a focus on medium to long-term strategies. India's post-Covid fiscal consolidation — reducing the fiscal deficit from 9.2% of GDP in 2020-21, to 4.4% in 2025-26—now faces its toughest challenge, it said.

Deepa Kumar, Head of Asia-Pacific Country Risk, S&P Global Market Intelligence, said the conflict has put a spotlight on energy and food security reforms.

## Sensex jumps 940 points as oil prices dip

**MUMBAI, PTI:** Benchmark Sensex rallied by 940 points on Wednesday, following a sharp decline in crude oil prices after US President Donald Trump claimed progress in negotiations with Iran towards an agreement to end the war.

Helped by fag-end heavy buying, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 940.73 points, or 1.22%, to settle at 77,958.52. During the day, it surged 1,004.99 points, or 1.30%, to a day's high of 78,022.78. The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 298.15 points, or 1.24%, to end at 24,330.95.

A positive trend in global markets aided the rally in domestic stocks.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee appreciated 69 paise to close at 94.49 against the US dollar on Wednesday, as Brent crude prices retreated from elevated levels towards $100 per barrel after President Trump hinted at a possible deal with Iran.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, tumbled 8% to $101.1 per barrel.

FIIs offloaded equities worth Rs 3,621.58 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

US President Donald Trump has suspended "Project Freedom", to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz, claiming progress in negotiations with Iran towards an agreement to end the war.

# Services PMI rises to 5-month high

**West Asia war worries, cost pressures dim business sentiment**

**GYANENDRA KESHRI**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's services activities posted its best performance at a five-month high in April, driven by strong domestic demand, even as export growth weakened and cost pressures remained elevated due to the West Asia conflict, as per an industry survey report released by S&P Global on Monday.

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for services rose to 58.8 in April, after touching a 14-month low of 57.5 in March.

A PMI reading above 50 signals an expansion in the sector, whereas a value below 50 indicates contraction. The April PMI number is the best since November 2025.

Consumer Services led April's expansion in new orders and output, followed by Transport, and Information & Communication.

According to survey participants, competitive pricing, e-commerce and particularly strong customer demand for relocation and logistics services boosted sales growth. The services PMI data is based on a survey conducted among around 400 companies in the services sector.

There was a strong recovery of both output and new order intakes during April. However, external sales expanded at the weakest pace in five months, dampened by the war and subdued inbound tourism.

"Activity and new orders strengthened, even as new export orders eased, suggesting that demand is rotating from overseas markets to domestic consumers amid the conflict," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

Input cost inflation moderated, but remained elevated, while output price inflation stayed subdued, indicating that some firms are absorbing higher costs rather than passing them on, Bhandari added.

Surveyed firms cited greater food, gas and labour costs, as well as shortages of gas for jump in operating expenses. Only part of this additional cost burden was transferred through to customers, as signalled by an increase in selling prices that was moderate in comparison. The overall rate of charge inflation receded to a three-month low.

Worries surrounding the war and cost pressures dampened business sentiment. Still, companies recruited more workers at the start of the first fiscal quarter.

## KPIT to buy Cymotive for up to $120 mn

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** KPIT Technologies on Wednesday said it will acquire Israel-headquartered automotive cybersecurity firm Cymotive for a total consideration between $60 million and $120 million (over Rs 1,130 crore), including upfront $10 million investment.

In a BSE filing, the company said the acquisition of Cymotive aligns with its long-term strategy of creating differentiated, AI solutions-led value to global OEMs. It strengthens KPIT's capabilities in automotive cybersecurity — a critical and natural extension of its core SOV, embedded, and systems engineering business — while enhancing its value proposition to global OEMs enabling them to adopt an integrated approach embedding cybersecurity into vehicle platforms from design through production and operations, it added.

It further said the initial investment by KPIT would be $10 million in preference capital (expected closure mid-June 2026), which would get converted to 26% of equity capital. Post conversion, KPIT would acquire the balance stake to own 100% in Cymotive (expected to be completed by mid-2029).

Kishor Patil, CEO and MD, KPIT Technologies, said, "Cybersecurity is now fundamental to how vehicles are designed, built, and trusted.

**BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for Procurement of 100 kVA, Star 1/2 (4/5 Star) Distribution Transformer.

| Sl. No. | Description | Enquiry No. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 100 kVA, Star 1 (4 Star) Distribution Transformer Lot-1 | BESCOM/2026-27/IND0256 |
| 2 | 100 kVA, Star 1 (4 Star) Distribution Transformer Lot-2 | BESCOM/2026-27/IND0257 |
| 3 | 100 kVA, Star 2 (5 Star) Distribution Transformer Lot-3 | BESCOM/2026-27/IND0258 |

Bid Documents available from : **08.05.2026 onwards,** Last date for Bid Submission : **30 days from the date of Publication.** Opening of Bid Document : **31st day from the date of Publication.**

The Tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal web-site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Aspiring Bidders need to register on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

**Sd/-**
**Chief General Manager (Elec), Procurement, BESCOM, 4th Floor, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 001**

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

**BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division,
BBMP Anganawadi Centre, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road,
Bengaluru-560 018.

No:EE/CRP/KPPP/TEND/03/2026-27 Date: 05.05.2026

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Through GOK KPPP only)**
**website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, Zone-2, BCCC, Bengaluru invites item rate tenders from the registered contractors of Bengaluru Central City Corporation/KPWD/Electrical/CPWD/Railways/MES/ National Highway or any State Govt. Organization for the below works.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1. | Providing Temporary Control Room in Chamarajpet and Azad Nagar Sub Division for the year 2026-27 for 7 Months (Ward No. 44,45,46, 48,49). **Estimated Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 15.00, EMD in ₹: 37,500/-** |
| 2. | Providing Temporary Control Room in JJR Nagar and Padarayanapura Sub Division for the year 2026-27 for 7 Months (47,50,51, 52,53) **Estimated Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 15.00, EMD in ₹: 37,500/-** |

**Calendar of Events: (1)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **16.05.2026 up to 4:30 p.m. (2)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals is **18.05.2026 after 11:00 a.m.**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BCCC.**

**KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**
**(BALLARI THERMAL POWER STATION)**
**CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)**

Bids are invited for the supply of following material through e- Procurement portal i.e. **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION**

**(1)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2414/CALL-3, Mettler Analytical Balance. **(2)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2535, Solenoid Valves & Spares. **(3)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2545, Pressure Switches and Pressure Gauges. **(4)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2461, Revolving Chairs. **(5)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2474, Feedback Units for Actuators. **(6)** KPCL/2025-26/IND1453/CALL-4, Measuring Instruments. **(7)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2349/CALL-3, Carboxylic Sulphonated Non-Ionic Terpolymer. **(8)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2424/CALL-2, LT Switchgear Spares. **(9)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2548, Bowl Mills Spares. Last date for receipt of tenders: **18.05.2026** for Sl.No. (1) to (5), **15.05.2026** for Sl.No. (6), **13.05.2026** for Sl.No. (7), **19.05.2026** for Sl.No. (8), **09.05.2026** for Sl.No. (9) Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Purchase) BT, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152, Ballari District, Mobile No.: 09480830377, E-mail: eepurchasebtps@gmail.com** during office hours.

**RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION**

**(1)** KPCL/2026-27/PS/WORK_INDENT4133, Date: 04.05.2026, Supply, Erection, Testing and Upgradation of 100KW IEC make DC motor for the apron feeder Drive at wagon tippler-5 at CHP. **Category: Work.** EMD: **Rs. 68,500/-.** Last date for receipt of tenders: **12.05.2026 up to 17.30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (CHP) E2,** KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District, **Mob. No.: 9449593534.**

**SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH**
(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/216/217
Tele Fax:080-26534625/477 | e-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com

**Ref:SJICR/TS/10/2026-27** **Date: 06.05.2026**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for the following items in two bid system from eligible tenderers through KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka:

| Sl No | Tender Notification / Indent No. | Name of the item |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | SJICR/2025-26/IND0055 dt. 06-05-2026 | Keeping Coagulation Analyzer on cost per reportable basis at Pathology Department, SJICR, Bengaluru & Mysuru |
| 2 | SJICR/2025-26/IND0057 dt. 06-05-2026 | Keeping 5 part differential Hematology Analyzer on cost per reportable basis at Pathology Department, SJICR, Bengaluru & Mysuru |
| 3 | SJICR/2026-27/IND0058 dt. 06-05-2026 | Keeping HbA1c system on cost per reportable basis at Biochemistry Department, SJICR, Bengaluru |
| 4 | SJICR/2026-27/IND0059 dt. 06-05-2026 | Keeping Integrated Chemistry & Immunoassay Analyzer on cost per reportable basis at Biochemistry Department, SJICR, Mysuru. |
| 5 | SJICR/2026-27/IND0060 dt. 06-05-2026 | Keeping Immuno Turbidimetric Immuno Assay on cost per reportable test basis at Microbiology Department, SJICR, Bengaluru & Mysuru |
| 6 | SJICR/2026-27/IND0061 dt. 06-05-2026 | Keeping Gel/Column system for Blood Grouping and cross matching at Blood Center, SJIC, Bengaluru & Mysuru. |
| 7 | SJICR/2026-27/IND0062 dt. 06-05-2026 | Keeping Blood Gas Analyzer (ABG machine) on cost per reportable basis at SJICR, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, SJICR's unit at ESICMH, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru |

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **11.05.2026** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **10.06.2026 up to 4:00 PM.**
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting: **21.05.2026 at 11:30 AM.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: **11.06.2026 at 4:00 PM.**
4. EMD: as mentioned in the tender document
5. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

**Sd/-**
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (I/C)**

DIPR/CP/JA/526/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
**ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶಹಾಪುರ**
ಜಿ: ಯಾದಗಿರಿ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ.
Website:www.shahapurcity.gov.in e-mail: itstaff_ulb_shahapur@yahoo.com,

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ/ನಸಶ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಜಾ.ಪ್ರ./2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.05.2026

**ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–2000 ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ/ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿರವರು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೂರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ www.kppp.karnatak.gov.in ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್ಲಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

**1) Name of works:** IMPROVEMENT OF NAGARKERE (LAKE) IN SHAHAPUR CMC LIMITS UNDER AMRUT 2.0. **Indent Number:** DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57633. **Estimate cast (in lakhs):** 234.24. **E M D (in Rs):** As per E-Portal. **Class of contractor:** Class 1 and Above.

**1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 05/05/2026 **2) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 19/05/2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 21/05/2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ **4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 25/05/2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ **5) ವಿಳಾಸ:** www.kppp.karnatak.gov.in

**ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು**
**ನಗರಸಭೆ ಶಹಾಪುರ**

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/53/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2026–27

**ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ**
**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 560100.**
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **ka.konappanaagrahara.tmc@gmail.com**

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **ಪುಸಕೋ/ತಾಶಾ/02/2026–27** ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06–05–2026**

**ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

**ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ, ಅದರಂತೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದ್ದು, ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ** ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

| ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ. | ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ | ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇರಿಸಲಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT57954 | 29.70 | 2505754.00 | 50115.00 | ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ |
| 2 | DMA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT57885 | 29.50 | 2499210.00 | 50000.00 | ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ |

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21–05–2026 ಸಮಯ: 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22–05–2026 ಸಮಯ: 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸ ದಿನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

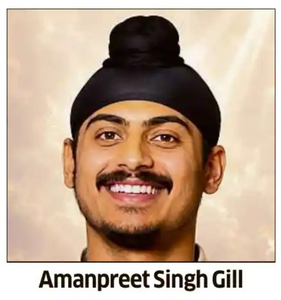
ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ:ಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/528/ಅಡ್ಮಿರ್ನ್/2026–27

"We would ideally want Kuldeep to be better than this. But we will rally around him. He's been somebody who's been a part of this side for many many years. He can turn this around.

**HEMANG BADANI, DC COACH**





Amanpreet Singh Gill

## Kohli's U-19 mate Amanpreet passes away

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Former India U-19 and Punjab medium pacer Amanpreet Singh Gill died at the age of 36 in Chandigarh on Wednesday, leaving the cricket fraternity in mourning.

The cause of death is not yet known.

Gill, who was Virat Kohli's U-19 team-mate, featured in six first-class matches for Punjab, picking up 11 wickets.

He was also part of the Punjab franchise (Kings XI Punjab) in the inaugural Indian Premier League season, and later served as a member of Punjab's senior selection committee.

"Punjab Cricket Association deeply mourns the sad demise of Amanpreet Singh Gill, former Punjab cricketer and Member, Senior Selection Committee Punjab," the Punjab Cricket Association announced on X.

"Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and loved ones. May Waheguru grant eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family in this difficult time."

## India A men to host Australia A

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** India A men's team will host Australia A for a shadow tour comprising two four-day games and three List A matches in September-October as BCCI on Wednesday released a comprehensive schedule for men's and women's age-group (U-19) and pathways teams (India A men and women) and senior women's side.

The marquee contest certainly will be India A vs Australia A men's series, which will be held between September 22 to October 11 entirely in Puducherry.

The first game will be held between September 22-25 while second is scheduled from September 29 to October 2. The three List A (50 over games) will be held on October 6, 9 and 11 respectively.

The Zimbabwe women's team will also be touring for a couple of weeks for six white-ball games -- three WT20I and three WODI between October 16 to 28.

The WT20I games will be held in Raipur and three List A games in Baroda.

# Chinnaswamy denied: Of political powerplay and a convenient excuse

### Strongarm tactic by Karnataka politicians backfires on Bengaluru

**MADHU JAWALI**
BENGALURU, DHNS

So it's official: Royal Challengers Bengaluru have seen their worst fears come true, with the Board of Control for Cricket in India stripping them of what was their "right" to host the final of this season's Indian Premier League.

To be fair, this "right" has never been set in stone. The idea that defending champions get first preference to host the final is more of a convention than a rule. There have been exceptions in the past, including in 2014 and 2016 when Bengaluru itself benefited from a similar development. But those decisions typically came under extraordinary circumstances such as logistical challenges and tournament constraints. On both these occasions, it was Mumbai's turn to host the finals.

That brings us to an obvious question: did the situation surrounding M Chinnaswamy Stadium truly justify such a drastic move? The BCCI has pointed to disputes over ticket quotas for Karnataka legislators as the primary reason for shifting a playoff and the final to other venues.

The IPL final of this edition has been moved from M Chinnaswamy Stadium to Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

"Owing to certain operational and logistical considerations, the TATA IPL 2026 Playoffs will be conducted across three venues this season as a special case," the BCCI said in a statement on Wednesday. "Bengaluru was originally designated to host the final. However, owing to certain requirements from the local association and authorities that were beyond the scope of BCCI's established guidelines and protocols, the venue has been shifted and reassigned."

On paper, that sounds purely administrative and logical too. In reality, though, it feels more like a convenient excuse than a convincing reason.

If the BCCI was serious about honouring the convention, it could have acted more constructively. It might have attempted to broker a resolution to the ticketing impasse through the Karnataka State Cricket Association which left no stone unturned to bring the IPL to Chinnaswamy against all odds. The situation, therefore, appears to have been used conveniently to move a marquee match to a venue of the board's preference.

KSCA, while expressing its disappointment, said that it had communicated in detail the venue's preparedness to host the final.

"KSCA had addressed a detailed communication to the BCCI outlining its preparedness and explaining the operational framework under which the current IPL season was conducted in Bengaluru. Most of these arrangements and protocols have been consistently followed since the inception of the IPL in 2008 and were implemented uniformly during the current season as well, including during earlier playoff matches hosted at Bengaluru.

"The communication addressed by KSCA was purely factual, operational and clarificatory in nature, intended only to provide transparency and clarity regarding logistical and stakeholder-related requirements associated with hosting such high-profile matches," it said in a statement.

This episode also casts a shadow on the conduct of local politicians. The aggressive push by some Karnataka legislators to secure ticket allocations through pressure tactics, did little to help the situation and the consequences were almost inevitable.

Bengaluru has long been one of the IPL's most vibrant centres, with a passionate fan base that transforms matches into near festivals. For RCB supporters, missing out on hosting the business end of the tournament must feel like a collective loss.

# SRH seize pole from Punjab

### Visitors pay dearly for dropped catches to suffer third straight loss

HYDERABAD, PTI

A profligate Punjab Kings put down catches at the drop of a hat as Sunrisers Hyderabad buried them under a huge total, winning their IPL contest by 33 runs to move to the top of the points table here on Wednesday.

Heinrich Klaasen continued his manic consistency with a 43-ball-69 while Ishan Kishan struck 32-ball-55 in Sunrisers' more than healthy total of 235 for 4.

On a placid track, SRH skipper Pat Cummins (2/34 in 4 overs) and their best bowler of the season Eshan Malinga (1/34 in 4 overs) not only provided breakthroughs but also bowled 21 dot balls to restrict the visitors to 202 for 7.

Cooper Connolly's (107 not out off 59 balls) century was the only saving grace for PBKS who were never in the contest after a disappointing Powerplay show.

PBKS thus lost their ninth consecutive IPL game in Hyderabad. The seventh win took SRH to 14 points and to top of the 10-team table. One more victory in the remaining three games will take them to the magic figure of 16 points which will be good enough to ensure a playoff spot.

Once skipper Cummins exposed the faulty technique of Priyansh Arya, whose game is devoid of any tangible footwork, there was no looking back for SRH. Prabhsimran Singh followed and even Shreyas Iyer was dismissed cheaply.

The fate of the match was decided in two Powerplays. While Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head's pyrotechnics took SRH to 79 for 1 in their six overs, PBKS managed only 57 for 3.

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Heinrich Klaasen hits one to the boundary during his 69 against Punjab Kings on Wednesday. PTI

However, Punjab Kings, who are going through a mini-slump with a third defeat in a row, would blame their deplorable fielding which contributed heavily towards their defeat.

Kishan-Klaasen duo were dropped thrice -- all sitters -- and the vice-captain was also lucky to survive a regulation stumping chance bungled by Prabhsimran, whose glovework hasn't been up to the mark. It was a luckless Yuzvendra Chahal, who was left high and dry by his 'butter-fingered' colleagues as Klaasen and Kishan lived charmed lives to guide Sunrisers to a winning total.

After Abhishek (35 off 13 balls) and Head (38 off 19 balls) blasted Arshdeep Singh and Marco Jansen for another half-century partnership, Klaasen and Kishan cashed in on missed opportunities to score half-centuries that ensured a healthy defendable total for their bowling unit.

Nitish Kumar Reddy, whose all-round game has improved remarkably this season, played a nice little cameo (29 not out off 13 balls) to beef up the total.

There was nothing in the track for the bowlers and Chahal's 1 for 32 is worth its weight in gold considering that Shashank Singh dropped a sitter and Prabhsimran couldn't effect a regular stumping, leaving him angry and distraught at the same time.

**SCOREBOARD**

**SUNRISERS HYDERABAD:** Abhishek Sharma c Iyer b Ferguson 35, Travis Head c Jansen b Chahal 38, Ishan Kishan c Shedge b Arshdeep 55, Heinrich Klaasen c Jansen b Vyshak 69, Nitish Kumar Reddy (not out) 29. Extras (B-2, LB-2, W-5) 9. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 20 overs) 235.**
**Fall of wickets:** 1-54, 2-84, 3-172, 4-235.
**Bowling:** Arshdeep Singh 4-0-43-1, Marco Jansen 4-0-61-0, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-41-1, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-32-1, Vijaykumar Vyshak 4-0-54-1.

**PUNJAB KINGS:** Priyansh Arya c Malinga b Cummins 1, Prabhsimran Singh c Cummins b Reddy 3, Cooper Connolly (not out) 107, Shreyas Iyer c Cummins b Malinga 5, Marcus Stoinis c Kishan b Shivang 28, Suryansh Shedge c Abhishek b Cummins 25, Shashank Singh c Reddy b Hussain 4, Marco Jansen c Dubey b Shivang 19, Vyshak Vijaykumar (not out) 1. Extras (NB-2, W-7) 9. **TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 20 overs) 202.**
**Fall of wickets:** 1-4, 2-4, 3-23, 4-63, 5-110, 6-119, 7-187.
**Bowling:** Pat Cummins 4-0-34-2, Nitish Kumar Reddy 2-0-11-1, Eshan Malinga 4-0-36-1, Sakib Hussain 4-0-40-1, Shivang Kumar 4-0-45-2, Harsh Dubey 2-0-36-0.
**Result:** SRH won by 33 runs
**PoM:** Pat Cummins

Punjab, whose outfielding through the tourney has been atrocious to say the least, dropped three catches which is unpardonable when the pitch resembles a shirtfront. In all, SRH batters smashed 17 sixes with Abhishek opening the floodgates with four maximums.

# RCB look to reload against LSG

### Defending champs lost their last game to Gujarat Titans

LUCKNOW, PTI

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will look to rediscover their batting rhythm after a rare collapse in their previous outing as they aim to strengthen their play-off push against bottom-placed Lucknow Super Giants in a reverse leg IPL match here on Thursday.

RCB are currently placed second on the table but remain tied on 12 points with four other teams. They will need to regroup quickly after suffering a four-wicket defeat against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad.

RCB's batting imploded dramatically in that match, slipping from 79 for 2 to 96 for 6 in the space of three overs before being bowled out for 155.

Despite the collapse, RCB's batting this season has largely revolved around aggressive intent. Virat Kohli has been in sublime form with 379 runs while Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Rajat Patidar have also made important contributions.

With regular opener Phil Salt ruled out due to a finger injury, the responsibility of providing explosive starts alongside Kohli will rest on Jacob Bethell.

Virat Kohli

**LIVE 7:30 PM**

Bethell showcased his immense talent during the recent T20 World Cup and it is only a matter of time before unleashes his full range of strokes in the IPL. Having had a week's break, RCB will head into the contest fresher than their opponents.

In contrast, LSG are languishing at the bottom of the standings after losing five of their last six matches.

Their lone success in that period came against Kolkata Knight Riders via a Super Over in a tied game but it failed to arrest their slide as they were comprehensively beaten by Mumbai Indians by six wickets in their previous outing.

**POINTS TABLE**

| Team | Played | Won | Lost | NR | Pts | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 0.737 |
| Punjab Kings | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 0.571 |
| Royal Challengers | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 1.420 |
| Rajasthan Royals | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 0.510 |
| Gujarat Titans | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 12 | -0.147 |
| Chennai Super Kings | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0.151 |
| Delhi Capitals | 10 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 8 | -0.949 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 | -0.539 |
| Mumbai Indians | 10 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 6 | -0.649 |
| Lucknow Super Giants | 9 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 4 | -1.076 |

Bangalore Occasionals, winners of the KSCA G Kasturirangan Memorial Trophy in Bengaluru on Tuesday. STANDING (from left) Subhash Shetty, Bhuvan M Raju, Rishil Mekala, Rajvir Wadhwa, Varun Kumar HC, Shreesha S Achar, Dushyanth Venkat, Niranjan N, Bheema (physio), Wahid Faizan Khan, Naman Ghate, Neil, Brijesh Reddy, Ashok N Swamy (manager). SITTING: Anutosh Poll, Vijay Madyalkar (coach), T Nasiruddin (coach), Melu Kranthi Kumar (captain), Shivaraj S, Naveen MG, Koushik V, Suraj Ahuja.

## Bangalore Occasionals lift title

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Bangalore Occasionals defeated Vijaya Cricket Club by eight wickets to win a rain-affected final of the KSCA G Kasturirangan Memorial Trophy on Tuesday.

After rain reduced the match to a five-over-a-side shootout, Occasionals hammered 91/2 with Bhuvan Raju smashing 36 off just 13 balls, laced with five sixes and a boundary.

Wahin Faizan Khan also bludgeoned 26 off just 10, which included three fours and two sixes.

In response, Vijaya fell short at 67/2 despite Samit Dravid's 13-ball 31 not out.

Koushik V (1/26) and Melu Kranthi Kumar (1/24) took crucial wickets to trouble the run-chase.

**Brief score:** Bangalore Occasionals: 91/2 in 5 overs (Bhuvan M Raju 36, Wahid Faizan Khan 26) bt Vijaya Cricket Club: 67/2 in 5 overs (Tushar Singh 25, Samit Dravid 31 n.o.).

# Former tennis players find second wind in pickleball

**HITA PRAKASH**
BENGALURU, DHNS

On a good day, Sharmada Balu would play in front of a handful crowd during a final of an international tennis tournament.

"Most times three people watching would be a big deal. But here the arena is filled with cheering spectators," shares the Bengaluru girl.

The former professional tennis player, who has two singles and 16 doubles titles on the ITF Tour, quit the sport over a year ago due to injuries, switching completely to pickleball.

A tennis player trying out another racquet sport isn't a novelty. However, the number of players transitioning to pickleball is growing at a fast rate worldwide. And those in Bengaluru's tennis community aren't far behind in migrating to the newest sporting addiction.

Similar to Sharmada, Rishi Reddy and Rashein Samuel are two other former pros who picked up pickleball paddles in the last 12 months. Convenience, cost-effectiveness, financial benefits, being physically less taxing, large crowds and lively ambiance are some of the factors luring players from a sport known for the stark opposite - a set-up that can be expensive, lonely and physically and mentally pushing the limits.

Rashein, at 5 feet 10 inches, explains how a height disadvantage makes a huge difference in tennis while the same isn't a major hassle on a 20x44-foot dimension pickleball court.

"Despite solid groundstrokes, serves were the weakest link in my game. If you see tennis players now, most of them are about 6'3", 6'4", and they have massive serves. But having a good forehand in tennis translated to having a good serve in pickleball because a serve is a forehand. And I love hitting forehands," offers the 33-year-old Rashein who has already competed in over 30 pickleball tournaments.

Speaking about monetary rewards, Rishi terms it as 'making 10x more for doing 10x less' and says it is a no-brainer for a tennis player to make the switch.

Rashein Samuel (above right), Sharmada Balu (top right) and Rishi Reddy (bottom right) are some of the former tennis pros in fray at The Centre Court Pickleball League in Bengaluru.

"I started playing in February 2025. Within three months, I began playing tournaments and by December last year, because of my strong performances, I got selected to play two leagues in India.

"At the auctions, I drew about 2.5 lakhs each besides having travel, stay and food during the events taken care of by the franchises. Moreover, it is an 11-point match with games scheduled only on Friday, Saturday and Sundays. It's a sport which is a lot more convenient for people who have other things going on in their life and I would definitely suggest any racquet sport player to take it up in the latter stages of their career," points the 28-year-old Rishi.

The fact that tennis – in terms of intensity, skillset and professionalism – is way more demanding than pickleball is no debate at all. But how difficult is it really for an explosive tennis playing individual to contain, control and compose one's game to suit the community-driven physical activity in a compact setting.

"You can't play pickleball like tennis," explains Sharmada, adding: "When the ball slows down you're waiting to attack. But in pickleball, when the ball is slow, you need to be even more patient. You can't just hit every ball. Staying low, smaller swings and fewer crossovers (footwork) are some of the other nuances one needs to adjust to."

Currently, the The Centre Court Pickleball League – a seven-week (played every Saturday) six-team (with 10 players each) franchise-style competition - is underway in Bengaluru.

Sharmada (Rally Renegades), Rashein (Southern Primes), Rishi (Depot 18 Chargers) are the three captains in the league. They are joined by fellow former tennis players Prerana Prathap and Sujith Sachidanand (skipper & deputy of Net Ninjas) while Ranjit Kupli (Mana BMR Smash Club) and Avilay Jha (Nin9s) are the two other non-tennis players serving as skippers.

What began as a fad is slowly turning out to be staple for many former tennis players. Internationally, the likes of greats Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf too vouch for pickleball's upward trajectory in the future. The trend has caught on here in the city too and likely to only get bigger and better.